

MEMORANDUM

March 30, 1964

TO: Mr. J. Lee Rankin  
General Counsel

FROM: Bert W. Griffin

SUBJECT: Recommendations for Further Action in Connection with  
Determining How Baby Got into The Basement, and  
Evaluating Officer Dean.

In making the following recommendations I am taking into principal consideration three factors:

- (1) that we do not as yet have the most complete set of evidence and the most thorough investigation that we could have to permit maximum effectiveness in cross-examination;
- (2) that the top officers in the police department (Chief Garry and Chief Betschler) are honorable men and sincerely interested in determining whether or not Dean is telling the truth and how Baby got into the basement, and
- (3) that the information we already have to discredit Dean is sufficiently strong to make the police department cooperate with us out of fear that we will turn this information over to the defense.

My general line of approach in making these recommendations is that we should aim toward obtaining the cooperation of the Police Department in taking whatever steps we believe necessary to secure the truth and assure that Jack Baby is able to obtain a fair trial. As a last resort we should make our evidence available to the defense, but we should do this if the Police Department does not come forward with conclusive proof that Dean and his associates have been truthful.

1. As a first step I would complete the gathering of information, independently of the Police Department, and I reexamine our files as outlined in my earlier memorandum.
2. I would take the deposition of Officer Vaughn and specifically determine from him when it was that he was first investigated.
3. I would ask for all police reports in connection with the Baby investigation including entry into the basement which have not been turned over to us and I would ask for handwritten original copies as well as typed copies.

4. Upon the examination of all this evidence, I would confer with Chief Bataillon and Chief Curry with the thought of determining from them how Dean behaved, what their men were told about statements to the press, what Dean knew about that policy, how they first heard about the information which Dean says Ruby gave him, and when Lt. Pierce was first told by Dean about that statement.
5. I would try to elicit the full cooperation of Chiefs Curry and Bataillon and I would request that they retain our confidence even to the point of not disclosing to the District Attorney Henry Wade what investigation is taking place. (I make this suggestion about nondisclosure to Henry Wade because Sarafnot Sanders has indicated to me that he did not believe Wade was entirely reliable. However, I think that the manner in which Wade should be treated should be specifically taken up with Sanders and if he believes that Wade should be made a party to all of the information and discussions that take place with Bataillon and Curry, then I think we should follow his advice.)
6. After the above steps have been taken, we should call as witnesses before the Commission the following personnel: Reserve Officer Gray, IV employee James Turner, Sgt. Patrick T. Dean, Det. Robert Lowery, Officer J. L. "Blackie" Harrison, Det. Louis H. Miller, Det. Crisham, Det. Archer, Det. Clark, Det. T. D. McMillan, and Reserve Officer W. Hannon.

Griffin/jv/3-30-64

CC: Griffin above file  
Mr. Hillman