

trch

Dr. James W. Rhoads, Archivist
National Archives
Washington, D.C. 20408

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
3/11/78

Dear Dr. Rhoads,

If Miss Jane Smith's letter of March 9 had been the first such letter I'd received from the Archives I would have been aghast. As it is I can say little more than that I am disappointed. The Archives remains a political rather than a scholarly institution under you and its and your first obligation appears to continue to be the protection of the errant intelligence agencies.

The false representations you have still again made to a federal court trouble none of you. You refuse to relieve this and after a delay of more than two weeks, apparently required by both the semantics and the political decision, write me evasively.

In the last paragraph of Miss Smith's response to my letter of February 20 she lumps the apples of the names of defectors, which relates to the January 21, 1964 transcript, with the oranges of Edward J. Epstein's writing, that having nothing to do with the January 21 transcript, squeezes them both together and juices out the utterly irrelevant, Epstein "did not have access to those transcripts or any other classified documents in the National Archives."

The questions are not of access to the text of the transcript or where there may have been such access. The questions are of the sworn representations by and on behalf of the National Archives and what not beyond any reasonable question is their total falsity. If the Archives was by any slight chance innocent to begin with its innocence ended on receipt of my letter of February 20. Since then the further disclosures as Mr. Epstein seeks to earn back the advance of a reported half million dollars made possible for him by the CIA become truly shocking - even in the light of my long experience in such matters. I strongly urge you to read his New York Magazine interviews, which are shorter than the book, the first Readers Digest condensation instalment and to reread your affidavits in C.A. 75-1448. Unless you do not care, as in the past you have not cared, about fraudulent misrepresentations to the court.

This case is not going to go away. If the appeals court holds against me I will refile it with the new evidence provided by Mr. Epstein, with this difference: I will begin by moving to take the depositions of all involved to avoid the allegation made on your behalf of "hearsay," which happens to be what you provided to the courts.

The concluding sentence of Miss Smith's letter is totally unacceptable to me. She says no more than "If the transcripts should be released, you ~~will~~ would be notified promptly."

My efforts to obtain these transcripts are now of a long and costly decade. The request for their release is mine. The suit to force their release is mine. If I may not be able to prevent the government's tricks of denying me first (with you even equal) use I am prepared to see if there is available remedy.

Of course with the Jane 23 transcript Epstein is already out with an account, arranged by the CIA, behind whose soiled skirts you have been shrinking all these years. That account is congenial to the spooks if not congenial to fact.

It is not possible that you employ anyone not perceptive enough to have known that the copy of Senator Schweiker's letter sent me was illegible. Now Miss Smith tells me that you have no legible copy. Pray then how in the world did you act on what the CIA told you except once again as its rubber stamp? And knowing it was illegible to begin with, did it exceed the intelligence of your staff to have thought of obtaining a legible copy? This required only a phone call. But of course if they had done this you'd have missed an opportunity for further stonewalling, for further wasting of what time I have left.

Sincerely, Harold Weisberg

March 9, 1978

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 12
Frederick, MD 21701

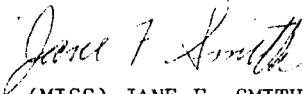
Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This is in reply to your letter of February 20, 1978.

We cannot make a better copy of Senator Schweiker's letter of November 19, 1975, that contains the handwritten notes to which you refer. The notes appear to have been made by the CIA on a copy of the letter in its possession. We have referred a copy of your letter and this reply, with a copy of Senator Schweiker's letter to the CIA, in the belief that the CIA may be able to furnish you a better copy made from the copy of the letter containing the original notes.

We do not believe that the release of the names of defectors by the CIA and the FBI affects the status of the withheld executive session transcripts of the Warren Commission to which you refer. Mr. Edward J. Epstein did not have access to these transcripts or any other classified documents in the National Archives. If the transcripts should be released, you would be promptly notified.

Sincerely,



(MISS) JANE F. SMITH
Director
Civil Archives Division

Enclosure

ROBERT M. HALL,
ATTORNEY GENERAL

RICHARD S. SCHWABER, PA.

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United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE TO
STUDY GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS WITH
RESPECT TO INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES
(PURSUANT TO S. RES. 21, 87TH CONGRESS)
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

R 1880

November 19, 1975

Mr. James B. Rhoades
Archivist of the United States
National Archives and Records Service
Seventh and Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20408

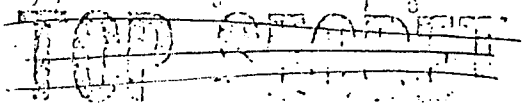
Dear Mr. Rhoades:

Pursuant to a request by the Senate Select Committee, Mr. Marion Johnson provided members of the Committee Staff two file boxes of classified internal Warren Commission memoranda on Tuesday, November 18. In order to further the Committee's investigation, I request copies of the following documents from this material:

1. Memorandum, to the records, from W. David Slawson, "Re: Conference with CIA on 3/12/64." *list on PH list*
2. Memorandum, 1/29/64, "Subject: Presence of Salvador Diaz Verson in Mexico around 22 November 1963." *TS forwarded to S, list 1, 19; "Revised w/ 4 deletions" on Arch. Exhibit 11/29/64; list on PH list*
3. Letter, 2/10/64, from J. Lee Rankin to Richard Helms. *TS forwarded to S, further forwarded to Conf. by PH. list 2, 9; 6/4/64; Buss*
4. Memorandum, 3/9/64, to Rankin, Willens and Redlich, from Slawson. "Telephone Conference with Rocca of CIA." *list 1, 25. Revised except for whitening name by PH. list*
5. Memo for the record, 3/27/64, from Slawson, "Re: Tentative Conclusions on Lee Harvey Oswald's Stay in Mexico City: Visits to Soviet and Cuban Embassies." *list 2, 7. Forwarded by PH to Conf. Dec 75.*
6. Memo for the record, 4/21/64, from Slawson. *list on PH list; not found*
7. Memo for the record, 4/22/64, from Slawson, "Subject: Trip to Mexico City." *TS forwarded to S, list 20, 2; already reviewed by PH. list on PH list; Buss*
8. Memorandum, 4/15/64, to Rankin from Coleman and Slawson. "Progress in Area 3." *TS forwarded to S; list 1, 24; further forwarded to Conf. by PH Dec 75*

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: Senate Select Committee
on Intelligence Activities
By: [Signature] NARS Date: 11/3/77



November 19, 1975

9. Memorandum, 4/3/64, from Rankin to J. Edgar Hoover.
10. Memorandum, 2/12/64, from Rankin to Hoover.
11. Memorandum, 6/1/64, from Rankin to Hoover.
12. Memorandum, 2/12/64, from Rankin to Hoover.
13. Memorandum, 2/18/64, from Rankin to Hoover
(Please omit the following:

1) page one - paragraph one - last three lines;

2) page one - paragraph one - line four last five words;

3) page two - paragraph one - line five second word;

4) page two - paragraph one - line seven second thru ninth word.)

14. Memorandum, 5/20/64, from Rankin to Hoover.

15. Memorandum for files, 5/2/64, from Coleman/
Slawson, "Subject: Questions Raised by
Ambassador Mann file." *4/2/64*

16. Memorandum, 4/28/64, to Rankin from Slawson,
"Subject: Request for Information from Cuban
Government." *not on PH but*

17. Memorandum, 3/26/64, "Subject: Mexico - CIA
Dissemination of Information on Lee Harvey
Oswald." (N.B. page 2 is missing from the file.) *not on PH but*

18. Memorandum, 3/4/64, to Rankin from Charles
Shaffer.

19. Memorandum, 3/13/64, to Rankin from Shaffer.

20. Memorandum for the record, 4/10/64, from Alfred
Goldberg, "Talk with Barefoot Sanders." *not sent by DA*

Mr. James B. Rhoades
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21. Memorandum, 4/16/64, to Slawson from Griffin, "Interview of Agent Ellsworth . . .
22. Memorandum, 3/6/64, to Rankin from Griffin and Hubert.
23. Memorandum, 6/2/64, to Rankin, Willens, Redlich and Liebler, from Slawson, "Conference with Mr. Isaac Don Levine 5/28/64."

not sent
by 11/19

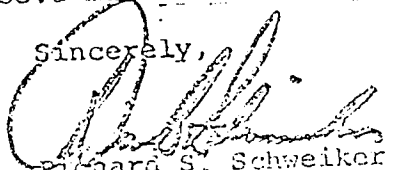
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is held

In order to expedite this request, members of the Senate Select Committee made arrangements with Mr. Johnson on the 18th so that the above materials could be easily identified. I would, therefore, appreciate delivery of the documents to the Senate Committee by Monday, November 24.

Additionally, Mr. Johnson advised staff members of the Committee that the material contained in the two file boxes reviewed on November 18, represented all classified Warren Commission internal memoranda. It would be appreciated if Mr. Johnson would confirm this in a cover letter accompanying the requested material.

Finally, Mr. Johnson confirmed that the Archives has a list of all materials given to the Warren Commission that remain classified. I would appreciate the list being enclosed with the above materials by the 24th.

Sincerely,


Richard S. Schweiker
United States Senate

cc: Mr. Marion Johnson

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~