

Dear Jim, CA75-226 developments and Assassinations committee-Press 4/7/77

Earlier today "il proclaimed this National Enquirer Day. As it relates to that journal it is slightly exaggerated. In description of the day it is not. At almost 8 I have not finished the mail.

There were more calls from the Enquirer but more time with others.

This does represent a detectable change. With the Enquirer there is a snapping whip, crazy but it hurts. With others it can even in some cases be the reporters, not their desks.

If I were to attempt to try to trace this to one thing it would be the Gardner story based on what he got from me on the committee's report. Followed by the expose of the executive session. I do get the feeling that the unshockable are shocked. There does appear now to be genuineness, especially in the long-rang reporting, beginning with present and crash acquisition of knowledge. Not one, by the way, has asked for a freebee.

*Proven
or Donnell* Not one has been intractible. One who may surprise you, a supposed anti-, has told me the basis of the Tip O'Neill turnon and I've been helping him find what he can use bu suggestions about what to ask of whom. I know of two who have spoken to O'Neill and I'm confident he believes there was a shot from the front. (What a difference it could have made if Bud really knew how to operate on the Hill! He does not know this yet.)

The Enquirer has a very large staff for so small a sheet. They must have at least half the staff trying to cook up takes. I've been knocking them down as those who know me get the reporters to call me. It was taking so much time I call my ranking friend and said that if this was going to continue I want to be paid as a consultant-that it is preventing other work. He promised to do it. Meaning have it done.

Sprague has announced a Press Club east-room press conference, I think for Tuesday. I did not know when Ford Rowan was here so I did not ask him to have it taped for me. I predicted it to Stuitzen when he was here, long ago, and indicated a scenario. He laughed and said that would be vintage Sprague. I gave George the same scenario today. After about four months - almost five since I made the bet with Dave - all I'd add now is a pretense of admission of error, that he is sorry he did not understand the Congressional animal better BUT -

George has on the way to him a partial tape of the Lane diatribe. He was told it was the old staff about the Post and Times ganging up against the committee. Would there be no committee and there would be a chance, with another.

Lane is back in Palm Beach running the inquest. Or cremation. Just so he can think he is running something besides his mouth.

More clips from Dallas, some useful in 226. By the time you get back it will be enough to make Pratt a bit anxious. More details on the nurse Bell, credible details missing before, and now a state trooper with a similar story -both claim to have handled 399 fragments. Will we do us a Pratt affidavit! With exhibits, for him and appeals court. (Rowan was impressed by the remand decision.) In addition to what I had these two good kinds of witnesses with first-person knowledge! Of motive for FBI withholding of the reports the existence of which we have proven. You may want to recall that the Dallas News had the nurse and trooper in a dialogue. If they taped it the tape would provide the basis for the drafting of affidavits.

Dallas attention has escalated. Aynesworth is on it for the Times-Herald but I've seen no stinker stories. Oltmans has made a mark of himself. And as you will see, by and large the reporting is good.