Sent JW, HR 2/5/73

Commission/Staff meeting with shrinks, 7/9/64

The size of the transcript is indicated by the page numbers. The first I've copies is the first page of that session. The others are the final pages, seriatim. Appearances include McCloy. It is possible I forget, but I have no recollection of his opening his yap. Pretty much the same for Rankin, who may have been at the opening.

I have special purposes in making copiew of these pages. I think that in the future I will be putting them to special use. I want to keep my transcripts intact and will file them now that I have finished the reading..

I found many interests in these pages in particular. Because I would welcome any independent comment on what you may see, I keep my opinions to myself not to color them.

For your information, all the listed staff members were there. Those who spoke at this time were but two, Redlich and Liebeler. You may find interesting reflections of them and their attitudes, to their work, their conclusions and each other. I suggest you may find the words of the shrinks illuminating.

I don't remember Willens saying anything. Jenner and Slawson were active at the beginning of the session, each with kinds of disagreements over what was discussed then.

Rothstein is the author of the official study on the shrink's view of those who threatened the President.

Ordinarily I would not send 15 pages, little as these hold, and ask that you read and if you feel so inclined, comment. The reading will not take long and I think the inner illumination (I do not regard it as a glow) of the inner workings will I think be worth that time. I say inner because it is elsewhere explicit and here inherent that it was expected that nobody would ever seen any of this.

And in this connection, I note that initially these pages were withheld from me. There never was justification for withholding all of it and there now is no justification in releasing some of the pages dealing with Marguerite Oswald's private life. You may find partial answer in the partial transcript.

Do not be deceived by the date of declassification given as 9/17/72. That is the time they xeroxed this set for me. Declassification was 7/17/67. Let me recount some history.

I had filed immediate protest/appeal from the denial of all the transcripts, some still active. I was turned donw on all, authomatically. At about the time of initial declassification, Marion Johnson told me casually one day that the psychiatric study of Oswald has been released. I could not have cared less about any finky shrinkery. Later, however, I realized that it was part of the Ex Sess withheld transcripts, so I ordered it. From his description I would never have dreamed it was Ex Sess. I don't remember them acknolwedging in writing that they had reversed themselves on my appeal or protest. This may not have been the real reason. They may have had some crony who wanted to use it. For months I did not think it worth the time, given other needs for the time. I've been reading as time fillers when I didn't want to do other things.

When the Js have finished reading, I'd appreciate it if they'd mail to Howard, 357 Craig. Univ Penna, 37 & Spruce Sts., Phila. 19104. When he has finished he can return for my O-Psych file, which is separate from the file of all transcripts. There is no rush. Make copies if you'd like. These, by the way, are blacker than my originals, which are so pale as to be barely legible at the tops of most pages.

Not counting breaks, this session lasted 7 hours, rather long. It is not as the bills describe it, a staff meeting. There was always a member present. It differs from the others in that staff was present at all.

If HR has time for analytical comment, I'd welcome it. Among my reasons for independent judgements is the possibility of different interpretations of several specific passages I have in mind. In one of these, it might be helpful to remember that Redlich was the so-called "red" of the staff, subject of violent criticism from the right, and Liebeler was an open rightist. This might not be immediately apparent from their positions and words.

I have made no effort to obtain the documents referred to, believing them probably not worth the time or money. This includes unrevised chapter drafts; staff memos I've never seen, and I've gone through the entire file so labelled, the memos files of the authors, which I've also gone through; the reports and letters of the shrinks. Or, much purging, with some thoroughness. Whether in the ensuing five years they've been returned I don't know and can't me take time to learn.

HW 2/3/73