

4/21/72

Dear Paul,

Because you will be pressed for time Monday and may have none if traffic is bad, these few notes.

My source on the Partin statement is Bill Loeb, publisher of the Manchester Union-Leader. We have been friends since he tried to help me with WHITEWASH. Although the file indicates no restriction on the use of the statement, I feel it best that if you or the Post use any of it, my source not be disclosed or indicated.

Art Egan's story from his paper is a duplicate. You may keep it instead of copying it if you'd like. Art is his investigative reporter.

My interest in Partin is separate from Hoffa. It is now not what it was then. Then it had to do with those finks (literally) Brownlee and Wyatt (aka John George). Brownlee was Dave Ferrie's godson and protege. His inspiration, if one can consider Brownlee inspired. Brownlee told me he was on anything he could get, which may or may not have something to do with the Partin connection.

I told you I had written Sheridan after being sent a page from his book. It and my unanswered letter are also here awaiting you, if they interest. Sheridan and I have met a couple of times, never on my initiative. He lives close by. He knows these two are at best disreputable. So, his taking what they say at face value (assuming he is not the one who changed it) and without checking with me is, I think, a measure of his concern for accuracy.

My first information on Wyatt was from Hoke May, then a reporter or desk man for the States-Item. Hoke told me about the original Sheridan-Wyatt contact, which he helped arrange. And of how Wyatt conned Garrison's investigators. Both told me Sheridan tried to bribe him.

Confirming my recollection of the incident referred to by Sheridan is my 12/29/67 memo to Lou Ivon, a police sergeant assigned to Garrison as his chief investigator.

The three affidavits are from a different source. Just because something is sworn to, as you know, doesn't make it true. I have marked a few passages. I think those executed in Washington were taken by Hoffa's lawyers. If you are interested in them, I presume it is okay, but I'll have to ask my source. I presume, in fact, that they were used in some Hoffa proceeding.

Justice probably has much that might be available under the Freedom of Information law. Everything available to a defendant under Jencks is supposed to be. I don't know how helpful any of Hoffa's or Teamsters' lawyers would be. None of this came to me from them.

The charges not prosecuted against Partin should be available. One of the affidavits says there were more than two dozen, including murder and kidnapping.

With regard to Hoffa, I don't think the question is was he a good guy or a bad guy but was justice done and, in fact, was he persecuted, good or bad.

I met with Wyatt and Brownlee many times. I taped a long interview with Wyatt, gave Ivon the tape and, I believe, never got it back. The man on whom the bum rap was to be pinned, referred to in my letter to Bill, is Rick Townley, who I also knew. He was then a WDSU-TV reporter and was working with Sheridan. Garrison had them both charged with public bribery, I think. They were charged, but that may not have been the charge or the only charge. Wyatt was sort of hooked because he had checked with Garrison or his people before meeting with Sheridan and had given them statements he could not change without risking a perjury charge. Thus the scheme to make Townley the goat and exculpate Sheridan.

Wyatt had been a narcotics informant. In one case he framed a friend, confirmed

(Continued) Best.