

## CITIZENS' COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY

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EDD A. JEFFORDS, State Chairman

7 Feb 69

Mr. Gary Schoener  
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Dear Mr. Schoener:

I am chairman of the Washington CCI speakers' bureau, a virtually nonexistent entity. The last time I was out of the room at Edd Jeffords' the other four stalwarts chose me Executive Secretary, whatever that entails. So much for bona fides.

Fred Newcomb is virtually our only contact with the outside world, but he has been most generous in his chosen role. We have, therefore, received a large quantity of material from him on the current charges and countercharges, including a number of your observations.

I would like to know from you just who is on the outs with New Orleans. From the material Fred sent, it looks like Jaffe is, and that Turner may or may not be, and that several other people are under suspicion by one or another critic.

The question of Turner is of some importance here, since he provided, indirectly at least, some intriguing allegations about some suspicious local people. After having been most dissatisfied with Burton, we had just about decided to run our research through Turner. Both Larry Haapanen and I were fairly impressed with Turner after our single meeting in September. It was a rather long conversation, and both of us disagreed with Turner at several points, but I saw nothing that would lead me to suspect his motives.

As to Jaffe, I did not buy his Paris adventure story. I was present at the meeting in Ray Marcus' home when Jaffe recounted the tale. At the time, I thought that Jaffe had a rather low opinion of the sophistication of his audience. For example, he told of a long chat with an unidentified man whom he was certain was with French Intelligence, and whose tongue loosened as the wine flowed. I remember Jaffe stared steadily at his hands as he told that one. He also stated that he had been assured that a "James Hepburn" would appear if necessary, such as for a lawsuit, and that the source material for the Hepburn book was secreted away in a safe deposit box in Luxemburg. Theatrical, perhaps, but unlikely. At the time, I was prepared to believe that Jaffe had lied for innocent reasons, since a

Gary Schoener, 2

bit of hide-the-ball might have been thought desirable for security reasons.

Jaffe also stated, in my presence in July, 1968 that Turner had discovered a man named Buick, an inmate of McNeil Island Federal Penitentiary, who was independently confirming Nagell's allegations. He told a silly story about how Buick initially was denied mail and visitors, but how he could make all the free long distance calls he wanted on the warden's telephone, no less. Later he was allowed to correspond, which he was doing in code with Turner. Since McNeil is only a short distance away, I offered to act as go-between, since face-to-face contact would be more secure than the U.S. mails. Jaffe hurriedly declined, an odd act to do for another man's contact. When I talked to Turner in September, he said Buick was Jaffe's man, not his.

By the way, I hear Nagell has turned out to be unreliable. I would appreciate receiving details on this.

Permit me to elaborate on Fred's account of McNabb-Rose in Tacoma. Edd was researching Fred Crisman before we found out that Burton was interested, and had contacted the Tacoma Better Business Bureau (an independent local agency not affiliated with the national group of the same name), the director of which is an old enemy of Crisman. After Edd began researching Crisman for Burton, E. Carl McNabb appeared in Tacoma, staying for a couple of days at a local hotel. He talked to the receptionist at the TBBB and to an employee of the "Tacoma News-Tribune," the paper Edd works for. One of these (I do not remember which) positively identified McNabb as <sup>like</sup>Wilson; the other was not so certain, but thought it looked ~~at~~ like him. McNabb said he was a private investigator and ex-CIA agent, and that his boss was the same. He gave the TBBB receptionist the Goleta post office box number, and we were going to follow it up as Fred stated, but Perry and Bonnie Adams, of Goleta, were told by Jaffe that McNabb, whose name, he said, was really Rose, was on our side and it was a case of mistaken identity.

I would like to raise the possibility of Turner's being as victimized as anyone else. Swallowing the stories of agents and fools is hardly indication of anything other than a lack of judgment, a failing that even Garrison has shown more than once. Bad judgment is hardly a Turner monopoly, either believing the untrue or propogating it. Ask Fred how he was impressed by Sprague's assertion that there were wires leading from the Depository to Sheriff Decker's office, and how he circulated the story. And if failure to give credit where due is a sign of agency, then yo ho! I know one prominent critic who must be Deputy Director for Plans of CIA.

Fallible judgment seems to be an indispensable prerequisite for

Gary Schoener, 3

being a critic. At one time or another, every thoughtful critic in the United States has had to back away with embarrassment from prior beliefs and assertions.

Regarding the main thrust of Turner's January, 1968 "Ramparts" article, criticized by Fred for inflating tangential aspects, I would hesitate to dump on it unless I was assured that Garrison felt the same way, or that Turner's source material (the files in New Orleans) told a different story. As presented, it was obviously intended to be an official history; perhaps the fault is not in Turner, but elsewhere.

Like you, I, too, am engaging in the public polemic over the assassination, though not to the extent that you seem to be. I intend to begin shortly bombarding the local media and groups of all varieties with the good news of my existence and eager availability. At the moment, I am putting together a presentation for Senator Jackson, who has expressed the opinion that the murders of both Kennedys and King were the results of conspiracies. His administrative assistant is trying to arrange it. Also, last week I gave the first of an open-ended series of half hour talks on the assassination over a local fm station. Your suggestions for format of public appearances, provoking debate, etc. are welcome.

Please let me hear from you at your convenience. I'm dying to learn just what is happening, so we in the sticks can ascertain what of our research is valid and what has been mere calisthenics or traps, if any. And best of luck on your Ph.D. prelims next month.

Please reply to the address below.

Sincerely yours,



George E. Rennar

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P.S. The rumors that we in Washington got the Schane film are not true. It was the bilious Zafunder remake.