3/9/76

Mr. Gary Schoener
400 W. Franklin, #2
Minneapolis, Minn. 55405

Dear Gary,

Thanks for the courtesy of the carbon of your 2/19/76 to Stoney Cooks, in Andy Young's office. I respond when I should not take the time to repeat the admonition of the past, the unheeded, because maybe you'll learn yet and practise your own calling and ask yourself how much of this is an expression of something that might be frustration.

Stoney Cooks knew more than is in your letter in early 1971. He was then turned off and has remained that way. He was then with SCLC, as was Young. More activist-oriented SCLC people in Atlanta and New York, got copies of Frame-Up to them.

Since then I've carried my work forward, in one area with a new black associate, who has been in touch with Young personally and has updated him.

Schweiker wanted to see me last October. It was the day after I got the negatives of Post Mortem safely off to the out-of-town printer of Post Mortem. Although I was in agony that day I spent the morning with him. What I report of that I ask you to hold in confidence. But again my purpose is not to chide but to inform.

I took the early bus, unable to drive. By the time I got to DC, the left leg was torture, even on crutches, but I spent the entire morning with him. I was in his office before he was and stayed until the last minute I could see the doctor. That is when I learned that the symptoms I had reported to no avail were of phlebitis. He then again seriously underestimated and did not hospitalize me for another week, after the mild anti-coagulent failed and deterioration continued. I have only recently learned that by the time of the hospitalization I had lost the main vein in the entire left leg and thigh and have impairment in the right and now apparently a vascular cimplication. This should explain to you both the extent to which I was willing to go to try to be helpful and my reluctance to engage in pointless correspondece. As well as my intention in this, to be helpful to you. And also, now that the horse is gone to try and persaude the door-openers that it is no way to keep the horse where he bleongs.

Schweiker had questions ready for me. I told him I owed him candor and it he had not heard my reputation, which is for forthrightness in the kinder representation, I'd not serve him well to be less than positive in what I said. But please ask for proofs or reasons if you do not believe what I'll be able to say in the time we have. (This was 2 1/2 hours and would have been longer if I didn't have to get to the doct by noon.)

He said I have some theories and I'd like you to shoot them down. One of the fours was this Milteer stuff. He'd read it in F-U. So, in terms of his possibilities within the time he had and the politicall realities, after first telling him that all four came originally from my work, I did proceed to shoot them down. Then I told him that all required investigation, but as a beginning point it was putting the grease on the rim of the wheel, not the axle. I also explained why. I brought enough of the documents then being printed in PM to show him their character and definitiveness. Pictures, too. I offered the opinion that this essentially peripheral matters would accomplish nothing as a beginning, that he had neither the trained staff nor the time to waste on anything bu the nitty-gritty, that the one way he had any chance to overcome the reluctance of his colleagues and the major media was to totally and completely demolish the Report and, having done that beyond repair, ask for an independent, separate investigation. Regardless of Church's ambitions, if any, by the time that committee completed its work - and I noted that had been successfully kept off the major task by the executive agencies and he even then agreed to this!- the Members and those of the staff willing and not already compromised by their pasts would be experienced. Don't do this, I said, and you fail. And should. You will be regarded as unsubstantial, you will have nothing that persuades the

unwilling and will convince them that solid evidence does not exist, and you will without the intent became part of a Ford/spook operation to numbm everyone and immure to all exposures. I went farthur. I told him I'd give him all the documents in Post Mortem and he did not even have to credit it or me, just so he got to the heart immed- iately beforethe inevitable numbness of any other approach set in.

I told him that if he took this approach there is nothing I have he could not have, nothing that would stand in the way of my rights to my own work, nothing like that. I told him the faster this agony were over the faster I could content myself with work I have wanted to do for years and could not get to because of all the dilletantism. You have an idea of what I could and would have given him, too. But I also said that I could not in good conscience be part of anything that was not basic, direct and beyond quibbling over. I even went into how the ultimate investigation could work and succeed. I had given this much thought and had been approached by others. And we have this long history of what happens to the crap from the crappers around.

He was effusive in his praise, almost euphoric in his seeming agreement, profuse in his thanks. That was a Thursday. He told me he'd be wanting to see and tlak to me more, that he could see my difficuoty getting around, that when the time came he'd come up or send a car for me, and I left certain that at last we had one with a solid approach. The next Tuesday or Wednesay I was in the hospital, with a radio and a task for another subcommittee. It was so anxious to be and keep in touch that I took a private room I could ill afford so I could serve both in pravcay and use the phone the same way. I spent much of my hospital time trying to write out a position paper for the second sub- committee. They wanted to pick my brains so much that the staff director insisted on getting up early and driving me in to DC instead of the student who I had lined up. We talked all the way in and I then outlined his basic approach for him and what it would yield. After I was out of the hspital he and his research director were up once, the research director on his own, they left with only copies I was physically unable to copy, I don't have them back yet despite many efforts, and they then merely stole and presented as their own the least significant of what they got from me. Jimwas to have been a witness. He prepared a statement, good, honest one. The chiarperson and staff read it and banged the gavel as Jim was supposed to testify. They also missed the boat and except for the few slips by their witnesses wound up with nothing not Jim's and my work, in effect stolen, and much less than we gave them. If you think this is any way exaggerated, ask Jim. But by phone. He hasn't time to write and is away until the end of this week.

I can give you chaper and verse with others, in the Congress and the Lanes and his kind. On the present Congressional gutlessness and stupidity and of the ineffectuality of all the childish, frequently aelf-seeking, lobbying and supplyin of misinformation, disinformation and the wrong information by the Lanes and Buds and others.

The next result should take you back 5-6 years if you are willing to look back and learn. Everyone is innured. No sensation means anything and the great opportunity we had it totally blown. Only an unexpectable miracle can change this.

When you send the Youngs and the Cooks who are copouts from way back, Cooks perhaps because he did and did not do what he knew was wanted, you are smearing them all over agains with greasy kid stuff. They are all over their ears in it and have been.

Meanwhile the black caucus knows about me, Members and enough of the staff. One one has really turned on and my total lack of help and new limitations make it im- possible for me to serve him as I'd like. As long as this permeating and long-standing selfishness continues it will remain impossible. So, having learned to live with it, I do as best I can with what can mean something. But not because I would not take the time where it might do some good. I learned to live with reality. You don't. And the end end result is negative, depresses them and persaudes them there is no chance. In representing as your own investigation what they read in F-U you have also undermined yourself for the future. It is and will be as it was when I took Mondales' Jasper to the Archives so long ago. He got scared and warned Mondale. Hastily,

Gary Richard Schoener
400 W. Franklin, Apt.2
Minneapolis, Minnesota
55405

February 19, 1976

Mr. Stoney Cooks
332 Cannon Blvd.
Washington, D.C.
20015

Re: Material relating to the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, on November 15, 1963.

Dear Mr. Cooks:

I am writing you at the request of Mr. Darnell Dudley who asked that I send you the enclosed material. I have previously sent these materials to Congressman Don Fraser (D-Minn.), Congressman Drinan of the Judiciary Civil and Constitutional Rights Subcommittee, Senator Walter Mondale (D-Minn.), and Senator Richard Schweiker of the Church Committee so as to bring these material to the attention of appropriate congressional committees investigating the withholding of evidence from the Warren Commission. I am in somewhat regular contact with Senator Schweiker.

The item withheld from the Warren Commission is a tape recording, the transcript of which is enclosed. The tape was obtained by William Somerset, an informant for the FBI and Miami Police Dept. It was released to independent investigators into the death of President John Kennedy by Richard Gerstein, District Attorney in Miami. (The same man who blew the whistle on some of the Cubans involved in the Watergate affair.) Gerstein also let the press in on this tape when he learned it had not been shown to the Warren Commission. The enclosed copy of a letter to me from the National Archives verifies that this tape is not among the documents of the Warren Commission.

If there is any doubt that the FBI knew of this incident (Gerstein and Somerset, when he finally surfaced, both claimed it had been given to the FBI), the enclosed 8 pages of documents (pp.24 and 25, Commission Document 20; pp.119-124, Commission Document 1347) should quickly resolve it. When I last checked page 121 of Commission Document 1347 was withheld, but it may be available by now. Judging from the bottom of page 120, it may discuss the church bombing further. The scant information in these pages and ludicrous interview with J.A. Milteer stinks given what the tape mentions--possible murder of President Kennedy, Martin Luther King, the bombing of a church, etc. etc. It is even more amazing when one realizes that these men admitted involvement in the killing of the president (see page 20) and when the FBI submitted thousands of pages of investigations of incidents unrelated to the assassination.

While I encountered these documents some years ago while investigating the assassination of President Kennedy, and recently sent them to congressional committees reviewing the handling of that case, they have obvious relevence to the church bombing as well as the behavior of southern offices of the F.B.I. in general.

I hope that these documents prove useful to you and that something can be done about this travesty of justice. I have nothing else I can really add to what is apparent in these documents concerning the men and incidents mentioned in them. For further information you might contact Richard Gerstein, DA in Miami, James Lesar--James Earl Ray's attorney in Washington D.C. (I don't have Jim's current number), or warren report critic Harold Weisberg, Rt. 12, Frederick, Maryland 21701.

For your general information, I am a clinical psychologist who is the executive director of a walk-in counseling center and have not been actively investigating anything for several years. I, unfortunately, have little time to aid those working on this case, although I have tried to assist the Church Committee. Periodically someone like Darnell pulls me out of retirement, but I am not in a position to devote much time to anything beyond my current job responsibilities which are considerable.

Darnell tells me that you are working with Representative Andrew Young and that this material is for him. Best of luck in doing something constructive with it.

Sincerely,

Gary Schoener

cc: Darnell Dudley

WALK-IN COUNSELING CENTER
2421 Chicago Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404

March 6, 1976

Harold,

I hope this finds you and Lil and good health and spirits.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I was asked to write to a congressional aide. I meant to send this several weeks ago but have been sick and generally out of it. It may have resulted in a contact and you may already know about it.

Best wishes.

Gary