

4/5/79

Dear Russ

After you spoke to Bill Corley, I again got in touch with the Archives, asking for everything and anything they had on file on the other people whose names you mentioned as having been interviewed by the FBI. I said everything except what I already had, and I identified that as pages 8 and 9 of File 47.

Just how they try and help me may interest you. Because of the difficulties I have had with my mail, I ask that when they send a large batch of material they register it. This gets charged to me. I pay the cost. In the past, when they sent me fewer documents than total in cost what registration does, I have asked them to use better judgement, not register.

Well, yesterday, I got from them a duplicate copy of pages 8 and 9 of the same file with page 7, from a different file, that in the name section under Corley. Bill", a copy of page 7 of File 47 that was filed under "Larkin, Hugh, and a copy of pages 7 and 8 filed under "Hester, Luke Christopher". In short, what they could have franked me free and would have cost me 20¢, one copy of page 7 of File 47, cost me a little more than 10 times that. This is one of the minor ways in which my limited funds are burned up.

I have copied page 7 from the Larkin file because that is the more distinct one. I have improved it somewhat by overexposure in the machine I use. It was not really bad by their standards to begin with, but it also was not this clear. It is interesting to note that the bottom of the page has the standard FBI form typed on. They have a printed form they use, and the printed legend is at the bottom. You can see numerous examples in PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITE-WASH (where in some cases I eliminated blank space).

This does not make me wonder less why the FBI did not interview Larkin (if not Hester Sr.) or, if they did, why it is not in the file. In short, when I add this to the failure to respond in any way to my question, was there any kind of an investigation of the license number, my curiosity is more piqued. I think at this point it would be a good idea, now that the investigation is over and the same phoney "security" cannot be invoked, if the same inquiry were made in New York. I would like to know what happens if it is done. There cannot have been a "freeze" on information and "only the FBI could obtain this information" and no FBI interest, no FBI report. Which makes interest in Valle and Bolden a little stronger.

I do hope Corley and Hester understand that, if and when this entire fake solution to the greatest single crime in our history comes apart, they have been carefully framed with a minor share of responsibility by their ever-friendly FBI. They are not alone. The government arranged it so hundreds of people might later have growing doubts about their own conduct, so that, in some cases, history would deal harshly with them, as if they were silent when later developments indicate they should not have been. This, in turn, tends to make people continue silence, which, in turn, tends to preserve the public reputation of the ever-vigilant, the sleepless, unflagging, undeterred FBI, just like on TV.

Looking forward to hearing more from you.

Sincerely,

P.S. No copies of COUP yet. Spoke to the man who was going to make them day before yesterday. He was to have called me back yesterday and didn't. I sure would like to have copies. Those I have out are frozen. I was to have gotten one back from the National Enquirer this week and didn't. It is 200 pages without appendix (which can easily grow to that size) and without the addition (I have not yet written it). Is that beyond your Xeroxing capacity if I can get a copy in my hands for a while? Could you copy and return? And could your contact with Bevel reach him in Phila. and suggest he get in touch with me? I was in NY briefly, did speak to one of the SCLC preachers who was driving to the memorial services in DV last weeked and said he was going to stop of here on his return. I hastened home for it and never heard a word. It has been some time since I wrote Abernathy, who also is silent. As, may I add, King also was when I wrote him after I learned about this threat against him. To emphasize how consistent this silenee/error is, the friend who did such fine investigating in Memphis had exectly the same experience. No help and he finally had to knock it off.

If you have clipped the Chicago papers on this, I'd like to see them long enough to learn whether they carried what other papers didn't. This does happen, I found a significant paragraph in an AP story in a New Orleans paper yesterday that was in no otherx paper I saw, dealing with Ray's counsel.

I gather you may be preoccupied at this moment, but I also expect you feel a little better about your draft status.

Sincerely,