

Mr. Kevin Walsh,

11/20/76

After I wrote you yesterday when I spoke to Jim I asked him to inform you by phone if he could reach you, in part so you could be better prepared to assess your chances with the committee and your prospects if accepted. He called me about something else last night so I know he did not have time to speak to you.

During the course of the day I had a number of phone conversations with Martin Waldren, a friend and one of the better reporters. During the last one Lane called him so we knocked it off. He is to call me today. He may be too busy and too tired. He is now based in New Jersey. He was in Washington. The only people not on the Times who knew he was there are Dadd and Gonzalez of the Members and Sprague. Figure it out for yourself. He is doing a Sunday piece for tomorrow's papers.

He told me that Gonzalez told him that Lane practically controls Sprague and thus the committee. He did not say it in any sense suggesting that Gonzalez is unhappy about it. You can be fully informed about these conversations if you would like.

I am very glad not to have had to go through all these records to find CDs 1359 and 984 (of which I wrote extensively in 1967). On the way home I had other copies made. Among these to whom I've sent these are Katherine Graham. I have also written Rhoads, Johnson and Les Whitten about these records and the Post's misuse. I report this so that if it interests you you'll know where to look in the files when you are here.

It may interest you to know that I've written NPR for fairness-doctrine time vs. Lattimer and the press club for fairness in an opportunity to present the other side. I have enough slides and can make more. I've also asked for a tape if that interests you. I have a large, fat Lattimer file.

I do not know how you will feel about the offer I made you conditional upon my ability to perform. This must be your own decision, assuming I can go through with it, as I'd like. In your interest you should do some non-Lane checking if you consider this. I recommend Jim and Heard Roffman, 1111 SW 16 Ave., Gainesville, Fla. 32601. By carbons I'm asking both to be frank with you as you ask anything of them.

If you'd care to go further I have no objection to your speaking to Whitten or Waldren. Meg's phones are both 609, 292-5174 for his office and 254- 1254 for his home.

I don't know what either would say. He can say what he has told me after he saw that the State of Tennessee could not and did not try to lay a finger on my Ray investigation and that in his view I "fucked up the FBI, the State of Tennessee and Shelby County." He saw the kidnapping of all the State's rebuttal witnesses, too. If Les tells you what he has told me he'll say that as an investigative reporter I am "the last of a dying breed." In this I suggest there can be some values to you.

Jim, Howard and I got to know each other about seven years ago. "either began as a friend or particularly sympathetic. Both have worked with me much since then.

Jim can tell you that when I disagree with what he is doing or not doing in FOIA cases I express myself and then tell him to do what he believes best. Howard can tell you that I gave Jim carte blanche with the appendixes of Whitewash IV and Post Mortem.

This is not what may be of immediate importance to you. The committee can be. This is why I wrote now. My wife is going into town tonight and can mail it to get it to you sooner in the event you are made an offer. If you are and if you accept, it is my information that the lowest salary of any employee hired is \$9,000 a year. Secretarial help is paid more than some researchers. Strange but true. You can see the list I was given. The two counsel in charge of the two parts of the investigation have not yet gone to work. Both are unknown to me. Sprague's status is "acting." Breen is not, as I thought, his first assistant.

It may also help you to evaluate to know that Dadd says they are going to break the King case with what they have already, coming from the Canadian border and Chicago; that Sprague told the members they can because the killer is still alive and I think Ozer told them that the rifle found at Canipe's fired the fatal shot. As you know the stuff about the destruction of files is false and misleading. Ozer seems to have taken this without question from Lane. Best, Harold Weisberg