

More on The Case of the Man of the Cloth

HW 4/4/74

One of the more obvious questions requiring exploration is motive. In deliberating those other than the obvious I decided to phone Paul Valentine, who had told me Monday of a relevant story on which he is working.

I phoned him this a.m. He is out ill. I asked Maureen, if she spoke to Paul's wife Elizabeth, to ask Paul if he had spoken to anyone on this story prior to Monday, the day on which I knew he had placed a call but had had no response.

The message reached Elizabeth garbled. She phoned me to tell me that from Paul's notes he spoke to William A. O'Connor Monday. He admitted speaking to a lawyer but refused to say which, and gave a story to the effect that he had offered to convoke a grand jury to hear Ray if Ray had anything to say and that definitely there was no offer of any kind of deal and certainly no mention of England.

I asked Elizabeth prior to Monday, and she said Paul had spoken to nobody before then.

So, I then told her that is when Paul is better he wants to evaluate the honesty and completeness of what O'Connor told him, he might want to recall that there was from before then and until relatively recently a federal indictment, the first, in Birmingham; that it continued active until I finally persuaded Bud to demand immediate trial of Jimmy's behalf, and that only then did the government move to dismiss. Or, O'Connor's is a cock and bull story because he had an active indictment and had to make no such offer.

She will tell Paul when he is better. He has wisdom-tooth trouble to be attended tomorrow under a general anesthetic.

My purpose in making this inquiry was to learn if it is possible that anyone to whom Paul had spoken could have figured in the shaking of the cloth.

I had spoken to Paul and to others about this by phone in the past and to Paul by phone week before last.

It seems improbable that there can be any involvement as a consequence of inquiry by Paul.

The only other one I recall speaking to about this by phone is Larry Finley, about the end of January.