

Dear Dave,

1/8/80

From the news accounts of your area's snow all of you must have much on your minds, deans more than profs, so instead of writing Buddy I write you about something Rae raised today and I'd raised a week or so ago in a different way. (I'd raised the problem; Rae proposed a partially unacceptable solution.)

First the windup: when the FBI was finally forced to disgorge, as it never had been before, it behaved very badly - even for the FBI. There was no trick too mean or dirty. So, all the FBIHQ King records were provided to me loose. So loose not even a wrapping. When I was picking them up I'd have to battle to get a second-hand envelope with which to protect them. Finally I bought a large supply of large binder clips. This is how the entire 20,000 pp of the FBIHQ MURKIN records is kept together withing file folders.

I'd noticed that they are starting to rust, although I bought ~~them~~ them new. Rae also noticed this and offered to punch them and bind them with Acco fasteners, at home.

My two-hole punch is one I bought second-hand in the 1930s. Still works but its capacity is about 8 sheets at a time and then it is hard on the hands. (My 3-hole takes 5-6 and is a JL reject. He discarded it, but it works.)

Today there are motor driven and level-operated punches with greater capacity. What Rae is offering to do means that if she could get 10 pages into the punch at a time she'll be going through that operation at least 2,000 times. She'll have no hands left, strong as she is.

If a decent punch can be provided, even on loan, I'll agree. But I'll not let her go in for this self-abuse with the punch I have.

If this is done then I recommend that we ~~use~~ use some kind of special material Buddy mentioned, resists rot and ~~decay~~ decay, etc. Especially if it comes with the fastener built in, as the one used by the FBI and we now get have. If these can be provided then that work will be done for you when you get the records. Except for the file folders it is now done for the field office and all JFK FBI records.

Buddy also mentioned a special file folder. Rae's writing is legible, so maybe it would ~~save~~ save work out there if we were to start using them for anything we get, not as replacements, for which we could not take time.

Punching, by the way, will be extremely important for the Dallas index, if it does not come to me bound. The cards totalled more than 40 linear feet.

Ditto if I get the MURKIN abstracts, which means, for a full set, something like 13,000 individual recods the size of 3x5 cards.

It might be good to plan these things now, to keep records better and save you all work in the future.

On another matter, I heard from both Jim and Jerry McKnight today about my last affidavit in C.A. 75-1448, in which I dedicated myself, albeit with too little time, to the total destruction of a skunk named Owen in the major skunk works, aka pickle factory aka CIA. Jim has had it for three weeks and had to keep asking for extensions of time because of other litigation. His Motion with it is due tomorrow and he may not get it done in time. He went back over the earlier case records, which I did not have time to do (although I included general references) and found that in addition the CIA's affidavits contradict each other.

Jerry is going to use it in his course. With other stuff he's gotten from me that is relevant and some of the attachments.

The earlier Briggs affidavit is perfect Orwell. You should reread it when you get this newest from Jim. He'll be sending his motion, with the affidavits and its attachments, already copied for you. (Bill did it.)

I deal with total dishonesties all the time. This may be the most total of all. And worst of all, save to hurt and waste me, most totally pointless.

By this I mean that once they had to surrender the transcripts there was no point in vindictiveness. The cost of paying fees would have been ever so much less than the cost of litigating the denial. Leave alone running any risks. If the judge is half a human and quarter a man there will be some risks.

I'm sorry that I do not ever have time to redo these affidavits. I decided immediately to respond paragraph by paragraph and that is what I did. But the CIA's affidavit is repetitious so my response is. It would have been better if I had been able to redo it beginning by stating that I have isolated each and every allegation and ~~addresses~~ address each, inserting references to Owen's Paragraphs by number.

Unfortunately, if I had not expected Jim to try to file it on time, in which event he'd have had several days to prepare his motion, I'd still have been able to justify the time. There is that much too much to do.

Anyway, I think you'll enjoy it all.

Best to all,