

Dear Dave,

1/3/78

Very glad to get your letter of the 30th. I'm sure Jim White will appreciate the reaction. I'll write him soon.

I'm sorry if the DJ record I sent for you to send to Howard did not introduce itself well enough. It is the covering letter of and the text of the so-called Civil Rights Division re-investigation of the FBI and the MLK killing. If this information suggests any further comment, please make them.

Lil is making a copy for Jim and I'll mail it in the morning. He is home still under the weather, weather being some kind of respiratory bug. Spoke to him briefly today. Before seeing your letter. I was in Washington, to the dentist's.

Reminds me about something progressive in this ultra-conservative area that for so long had been just backward. Dentist didn't want me to go to DC by bus on the chance I'd bleed. Doctor took me off the anti-coagulant three days ago to deter bleeding. But when I can't drive that far what to do? Cabs at \$60 + each way?

I can remember when Frederick did not have a 12th grade in the entire county. Now it has many senior citizens and they vote. Have children who are in public office, etc. So now they have a transportation service for those who receive public assistance in the form of medical care and for those who are over 60 when the transportation is medical. (It has included taking the arthritic to an acupuncture clinic in Washington.) So now that I'm past 60 if I let them know in time they provide a car. Today a stationwagon.

As it turned out, however, there was no need for any worry. Not about bleeding, anyway. I'm surprised at how little I bled. But it was much better to be returning this way and without a long wait at the bus terminal.

No pain, either. Odd thing is it went so well I ignored the dentist's ellipsis. He didn't say you'll salivate much and spit it out. He said sometimes people's stomachs get upset. So, feeling fine, I listened to tapes all the way home and then got to correspondence and other matters. Being off the anti-coagulant I even used tools to hang a plant-grow type fluorescent fixture for Lil.

When I got home I followed the doctor's orders and took an even heavier dosage of anti-coagulant. About an hour later I was suddenly motivated to empty my stomach. Then I remembered that I had no way of knowing whether the system had taken the medicine up or if it would be safe to repeat the dosage. I decided the latter was too risky. So I did something I've never done before - ordered myself to keep it down - and kept it down.

Before 8 this evening, which was not long ago, I was suddenly sleepy. Lil says I'm tired from the effort! This explanation of my not going into more about the CRD report is offered in the time it will take me to be certain that the all-night (hopefully) chunk of green oak I've put in the fireplace has caught. When that is certain to bed.

The recent envelopes have been fat not because I forgot to mail them. Because I was given some 50¢ stamps and this is one way of using them up. We found that if we use them on insured mailings of books the receipts never come back. With cash they do.

The way your people reacted to the possibility of getting Jim White's books and other records is quite encouraging. Maybe they've gone to college to learn?

Best to you all,



university of wisconsin / stevens point • stevens point, wisconsin 54481

December 30, 1977

Harold Weisberg
RR 12
Frederick My 21701

Dear Harold:

Today the library worked on the new batch of cassettes you sent. Since the season is slack and the atmosphere relaxed the work went nicely. They immediately duplicated them, attaching a finding number I assigned to them (e. g. HW-412-c) and will type up a simple listing of number-cassette title-date which I will later send a copy to you. We have about 40 odd cassettes on the list ~~xxx~~ all relating to those which you sent and George will add the tape of the phone conversation with you, of which he is intensely proud and this will be one more.

The administrator here, Eagon and his two top assistants Lea and Barrows, are quite stirred by the Jim White offer and wished me to tell you to inform him that the books would be a welcome addition indeed. The books fit in as you suggested as loaners and permit a state-wide or nation-wide for that matter ~~xxxx~~ source for interlibrary loan and will additionally let townspeople, students, take them home to work at. (They will of course pay^{w/kit} the postage.) What this ~~is~~ ultimately means for them as one of them expressed it to me is that they are being pushed and challenged to do things and reach a bit and they like this. Also, when they retire from the university they will like to look back at what happened and think that something like the JFK thing is something they can be proud to have helped. Further this addition is cumulative in that it slowly impresses upon staff, faculty, administrators, and system wide administrators that they can move with quality just as well as with gimmicks. So Mr. White's offer will mean much more to the nation than perhaps he thinks. They intend to immediately xerox the material to have a duplicate. Costs and handling for boxes and the books of course will be forthcoming when he wishes or after they come we will tally and send it to him along with appropriate and nicely done up letters from the University.

In reading the MLK document which I immediately sent to Howard (29th) after reading the following observations come to mind. I do not know the context of much of this and have not the flow of similar matter to place my judgment in perspective so my commentary will be hazardous I am afraid.

Regards
Dane

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MLK 12/30/77

1. The material seemed to be directed at the personal level of King's low morals and his poor judgment in hiring a commie and the report turned on the clash of different psyches--evil v. bad. This seems terribly narrow for two top national figures to fight over. Hoover's ~~xxx~~ eye is on the sparrow I am sure but it seems to me that there were severe and terrible issues involved here for him that reached beyond the sparrow to the realm of economic, political, military, etc. I mean are the character flaws of King so awful for Hoover to disobey Presidential and Ag direct orders?

So I think that the document is a set up, to focus attention on the nerve tickler, the civil libertarians of the nation, etc., and omits the activity in the other possible realms. What were the major department stores, factory owners in Chicago doing with King's attack on their cheap labor supply? What was the military doing about a man creating hell with black soldiers or possible hell? What was the importance to southern political leaders of a King political threat?

2. Who is the document directed at? What is its jugular vein? a few old FBI cronies of Hoover, some dead, most retired, all ~~parxxx~~ super pols. What does it achieve? It suggests some money to the Kings might be paid. What is this for? It sure as shooting does not rectify the institutional structure of the FBI does it? If this is true then there must be something ~~xx~~ else ~~x~~ in it that I am missing?

3. Is it an attack on the Kennedy group? Ike, LBJ, Nixon are ignored. LBJ is mentioned as White House, but is that LBJ? It is impossible to have been so centered as to just include the Kennedy boys only. And what does a sex attack on King mean to the Kennedy boys who certainly would not find anything negative in a persons character for doing ~~thxxx~~ such. I think that the ~~xxx~~ ^{FBI} were trying to bring the Kennedys into line with the main power centers and were finding them hard to control and using this material to compromise them.

How can this all be top secret? What does this have to do with starting a war?

I regret I must send you such desultory and rather weak comments but I am so isolated from the subject and the flow of documents.


Dave Wrone