

Pear Paul,

7/13/78

Your letter of the 9th came this morning. A brief response and explanation while I'm resting from a bout with the push mower. And thanks for the possible explanation of the 9/17-18 matter in the FBI records.

Ordinarily it would be a major fight to get what they are holding back. It will now be a harder one because there is and for months has been visible indications of a major effort by the spooks to obtain legal sanction for all their dirty tricks possible and to vitiate FOIA while doing this. It is in this context that we'll be trying to break loose what they still withhold, in part and in toto. I've many very good leads on entire files and the most valuable records. This was visible when I asked you to note all file numbers you may see. I made a list of some and don't know where I put it!

Because I was pretty sure you would agree to the confidentiality and would be able to perceive the need I have already done some copying that will be available to you and Howard when he gets settled near Washington next month. I'll make an extra set of the worksheets for Jim. There are quite a few and postage will be high. I've given these to Jim. It makes no difference to me how you and he handle this. My hunch is that unless you feel you'll need more than a single copy it would be better to have the copying done in DC rather than to have to pay the extra of mailing it back to Jim. But how is between you and him. I've already discussed this with him, that is, your access.

As I went through the 5,000+ pages in some haste I put paperclips in those that appeared to be interesting. I'll make me copies of them and the original are already in the permanent file that will go to Wisconsin.

Early this morning I started to go through these copies. Jim will have a copy of each one of which I made a copy. As I worked through three Volumes I separate Jim's copies out and stapled them by Volume and indicated the Volume number on the first page. While this is not an essential bit of knowledge it makes the searching later easier to know what Volume.

If I can get a local student to bind my copies of the worksheets I'll ask her to make a list of first serials for each volume as she does it. If I can't get help I'll try to get it done when I'm sitting and feasting. Then you also can have a copy of this list, which I'll have with the main file, too. I'll have the original worksheets in each volume and a separate complete set with the files. They take up two full drawers and are far from complete.

As I was working this morning my ideas developed and changed. I'd been heavily occupied, as Jim also had been, with FOIA work. I've not yet begun to refile what I had to get out for several affidavits and I'll has not yet cleared up what accumulated on her during this intense period. I'm making rough files as I go. Some may not be well thought through or even described but they'll have to do because there is no time. After the first volume I started more breakdowns and more duplicate copies filed in these folders. I'm also making a card file of these subjects and indicating them on the notes I'm making for my more immediate needs rather than the future.

When I have finished this Jim will have a complete set. I'll have have a complete set. Meaning of those I selected out My belief is that the best procedure will be for Jim to have copies made of his set for you and to mail them to you rather than for him to be without them when he may need them in the ongoing litigation. I'll has more than she can do now so I can't volunteer her and commercial costs are much lower than our total costs.

I believe that when you see some of the records you'll understand better why I am concerned about silence so we can do the necessary. I want no outside intrusions of a sort we were just the victim of, as a DJ person indicated to Jim, we were set up. These other records include entire files not admitted, whole projects not admitted, like on all the book, even - sit tight - 40 linear feet of 3x5 index cards on all the files! (I've even asked Jim to hold back on any mention to DJ on appeals for what I think will be a better time.) I've caught them in some file shuffling on the tender stuff of the plane from Mexico City (NavY) and the pictures and tapes and I'm fairly certain phoney exemption claims. I'm putting a file together on this. I think I've caught them in a technical violation and filed an appeal that does not pinpoint this particular set of

recods. They are not a single Serial. SA Eldon Rudd, Legat, McCoy, flew them up on a Navy plane scheduled to land at 12:27 a.m. 11/23. FBI met him. At ⁴ove. Details of this kind I'm picking up in hand notes. Texts are largely withheld still.

Another I recall is that they placed LHO at the border after 8 a.m. 10/3/63, having left McCoy before the expiration of the rent he'd paid, and also on 10/3 filing for unemployment in Dallas. They note the distance, 420 or 520 miles, which makes it impossible by bus, and not the handwritings are not the same. Time of crossing of border set by shift worked by the one who made the records. Began 8 a.m.

They have other witnesses, including to shooting; pictures not disclosed; copies of the pix in Dallas, and many interesting things. Like the immediate beginning of a detailed but selective index. Nothing exculpatory in it.

Interesting political bits, too, like while pretending to be a willing helper how the FBI decided to take control immediately and then went about it. Hoover decided at the very first that they would have to "solve" the case.

Before the end of 11/22 they had a caption on the case of the killing of the ⁵res. by LHO. They did not have to investigate with a live suspect. They could take care of all the proofs - and they all knew it and acted accordingly. Shanklin's memos to files have to be read with care. So also the recods of calls from NO FO and what they do not include.

In time, and I hope not too long a time, I'll be giving just about everyone access. But until after the case in court is over I want no mention so we can get all possible and perhaps make some uses. (I am very anxious to be able to find and afford an assistant.)

The only person I've turned down on the other stuff is Lifton. The basis for doing that was simply that this is my home and he is not welcome in it. And if I felt otherwise my wife is firm. Which is literally true. She forbid it. I also reminded him of his unwillingness to help in the spectro suit and then moving in to pick up my crumbs and spouting off without knowing what he is talking about. Which also is true. There is good stuff he did not understand, if he got all I got, which I also doubt. (If he had not behaved badly despite my feelings about him and some of the dirty things he's done I'd have given him copies because I'll not be writing about that any more.)

There are no political preconditions to access here. I'm making the files available to a free-lance who is working for the Liberty lobby. He asked and I agreed. There are conditions, like nobody takes any file apart and ⁴il only makes the copies and handles the originals. But I've even put in a table and charis and extra lighting where the files are in the basement, only for others.

Your usual notes will be of value. I'm interested in further research and writing. But please try to project yourself into what may be of use in FOIA cases. This is the way we get more out and there is a tough period ahead.

Best,

July 9, 1978

Dear Harold,

Thanks for your letter of the 1st, which ~~XXXXX~~ crossed in the mail with mine of the 5th.

Re your memo of 7/1 on FBI document 89-43-1295, the interview of Marina referring to "the September 17 [and/or 18?] matter." I can't be certain without seeing the document, of course, but this seems to refer to our old friend "D," who claimed to have seen Oswald at the Cuban consulate in Mexico on ~~XXXXX~~ one of those dates. (See p. 308 of the Warren Report.) The Schweiker Report went into some detail about the major flap D's allegations caused in the days after the assassination. I've seen quite a few relevant documents in the FBI and CIA releases; my recollection is that while the people in Mexico were working on D, eventually getting him to recant, ~~w~~ there was quite a lot of work on locating Oswald on 9/17-18 - at least until D recanted. Anything on the D story in the Marina interview ~~was~~ probably doesn't need to be withheld, but the fact that "the 9/17 matter" is being withheld seems to confirm that it is about D.

Yes, I would be pleased to see documents from your files, on a totally confidential basis if you want that. I can do the Xeroxing out here for myself, or for ~~XXXXXX~~ Howard, etc. Of course, I'll send you what notes I can put together.

In the field office files, anything from the few days after the assassination might be of the greatest interest.

I've still got requests pending at the FBI for various pre-assassination files. They seem to be working on them pretty slowly.

With best regards,

Paul

PLH