

JL, PH, AP's use of 1/22/64 transcript HW 5/17/75

I first became aware that AP had devoted some length to this story before 5 p.m. when Washington public radio station read the for radio long item from the radio wire. It gave no source, only that "AP obtained."

I had spoken to AP Tuesday, from JL's, when I was in DC for medical checkup. The reporter who did the first story, on the 1/27 transcript, was not in. But the desk man did like the idea and switched me to Don Rothberg, who also did. He came up. When there was no next-day story I had a hunch they would use it for Sunday.

I did tell him the entire story, beginning with the supposed destruction of all, PH's finding out that the stenotype tape survived, and JL's handling for both of us. Even the coincidence in dates, between JL's letter and the Archives' mailing. In fact, I also gave him the letter.

Afterward, noting no credit on the radio wire, I spoke to Margaret Sherf. She told me that there was mention of me but not of the two of you. I asked if this could be added and she said it was too late. So, I suggested I could supply a follow-up and there could be mention of the two of you. That she says is not impossible and she thinks Rothberg, who is out of town on a story, has something in mind.

I spoke to another reporter friend who is saving the wire copy in the event the paper we see cut or downplay. He'll be sending it to me and I'll be able to supply copies. Supposed to be over 900 words, which is not bad for the wire and this subject.

It has been almost impossible to give this one away. Literally copies were not picked up in NYC after I read excerpts to about 40 reporters. I had xeroxes made there. The Post reporter read it while we were both there and suggested I should have read an excerpt I had not. He sent his copy to the Post. I spoke to the Post several times. They saw no story.

UPI three times. CBS several. Mutual radio was going to come up and get a copy and discuss after 5/29 but hasn't. Several foreign papers. USNR. Chi Daily News. Wx Star. These I remember and there must have been more.

There seems to have been more fear of this one.

As I had explained the history to Rothberg, I went over it again with Sherf, including both your addresses.

I presume JL hasn't heard of this because he has not phoned. There also appears to be no special interest from those to whom my name is not strange because there has been no call from any. Only Newsday had a question, about the absence of name identifications, which I explained to Sherf.

NYTimes has copy and I phoned twice, without results, once speaking to Crewdson, who professed interest.

The part on the radio wire was the quote ending with Dulles' "terrible" on conspiracy. The full quote, however. All of them.

As I've spoken to reporters I've been telling them that the government has not delivered fully on spectro/NAA, has not supplied the answers we are to get, and that there is the next calendar hearing Wednesday. Even to Hearst. This does not mean that reporters will be there but it represents some effort to attract them.

I also told Rothberg. If there is mention of that at the close of the story it might attract some press.

Silence from the WxPost does not encourage belief the national desk favors the story.

Other odds: I can't say how many times I've read excerpts on radio b'casts but no single paper has called as a result.

Indications: still uptight.

Also, supposed to go into Congressional Record via pressures from U.Md. students.