

Dear Jim,

10/12/76

I've found some of the missing Justice files. Scott apparently added a fat folder, what had been my chrono file when I'd taken time to keep one, to a stack of the unfiled. Disappointing. When I have a little help it is still not help.

I had segregated all DJ files. I've added this folder to that. So it is not lost. I'm not taking time to go into it.

I'll let that file stay as it is in the hope I can get some good help or that Lil can find time to re-establish a DJ chrono file.

The ^{same} thing needs to be done with my large file of CIA correspondence.

I'm inclined to think that perhaps it will be easier and better to use cross-references rather than filed copies where I have subject files. This will save not only the cost of the copy but the time of getting up to make it and returning. It will also mean that the mechanics of filing can be continuous ~~xxx~~ while the file is being re-established.

Kim and Ida are two nice young people but they worked well once, an important once, when he had to reprise all the books. They were better than the men then. I'll ask them to try for a weekend on which their school work is all caught up. If I can get them to complete what ^{Ida} is working on, the index cards, and then first put all these records in chrono order, then the referencing will not be as difficult and ^{Ida} might be able to do that over a period of time. The young men just are not dependable, not on this kind of work, anyway.

Those dupes of the Garrison Ferrie files you gave me are almost all entirely worthless except as illustrations of why the Garrison effort came to naught. Or worse than nothing.

It is not only that his people were not suited to this kind of work, as they were not.

Nor is it that they could not see the obvious, which they could not.

It is really Garrison, who was unable and unwilling to learn. He was like a swallowing snake. He got started and was unable to stop or change. It took me some time to learn that one in his position could be made this way.

As I look back on it now I'm certain that the only reason he seized on Ferrie is because Ferrie was local, far out and with a criminal record. Or, it was all an accident made more fortuitous by the accident of his having picked Ferrie up in 1963. Neither he nor any of those who worked for him nor any of the so-called critics who flooded in nor any of the press ever tumbled to the very simple reality of Ferrie.

This file reminds me again of what it is still not easy to comprehend, the unreal mixture of grandiosity, incompetence and blindness.

I never thought Garrison could solve the crime or that it was New Orleans based. My own work there was entirely outside any such concept. But I did believe from the first and I am not entirely satisfied I was right, that he could have broken the whole thing open with ease. I started working on this. Until I started to press him he asked me about everything. One of the records you gave me has his marking note to write me. It was about what I knew nothing about and had no interest in.

The ways he could have done this were too simple, too orthodox for him. I started working on it the first time I was there and I had the first two handles for him immediately, by the first Sunday I was ever there. I had Pena begging to go before the grand jury to make charges against the FBI, charges of which my files hold other proofs and indicated in his testimony. He could place FBI agents in Cuban N.O. meetings with Ferrie, too. On Bringuier I developed a solid case of perjury, with documentary proofs and live witnesses. This meant subornation of perjury on Liebeler, who also had the FBI working against Pena, whether or not the charge would stick, ~~I~~ as I think it could have. And on Ferrie what a coverup! With the FBI and the Commission in tandem on this, the the same and for separate reasons. I developed many more proofs later, one of the reasons for my asking under FOIA for the fingerprint on the Wasp leaflet. Oswald's two-bit operations were much more extensive than reported. They clearly had a little help. His records are not understood. They contain names and addresses he could not have learned on his own. The FBI even had to turn the Secret Service off on Oswald's connections. I did not begin to complete what I set out to do but I got enough. As of now I'm not offering it to the House. But on Garrison, this kind of investigation was within the capability of his cops and lawyers. But he dominated them and kept them floundering and uncertain. They lacked any confidence in themselves because they had no faith in what he was up to. Best,