

Mr. "es Whitten
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1/17/76

Dear Les,

Nothing personal. Just my usual waste of time trying to be helpful when nobody wants help or truth.

On the spur of the moment I could even make up a saying for you, like Columnists played J. Edgar dead when from the living Heever they'd have fled.

Imagine me seeming to defend J. Edgar!

Jack would never have gone with today's item with Heever alive. It also is false.

I did not write after the first one like this, about a week ago. The Post cut that piece out but our local paper carried it.

First the fact then the opinion.

"We have learned...that the FBI... held back ...on the pre-assassination activities of Lee Harvey Oswald." Then the non-sequitur, "Thus the commission accused Oswald of the murder without considering all the available facts."

What "we" do learn.

I'm not going to check for you because my recollections are good enough. I wrote about this in early 1967 at the latest.

St. Edgar was a Commission witness. He held these files in his hot grubby hands. As I recall it Alan Belmont was with him. He did offer the Commission all, literally. And Earl Warren refused to look at it. Personally and verbally.

I'm not really defending the Founding Father. I'm saying you ought not underestimate him or credit self-seeking sources. You'll find this in my Oswald in New Orleans and if you do not have that in the Commission's hearings, Vol. 5.

(I've had an FOIA request for all of this for a long time. If you want to push it provide counsel and I'll give it to you. If you do not want to push it I'll give it away if and when I get it. I can file a complaint any time I want to. When I get back to that book, one I laid aside 5-7 years ago when the editors raved and there was no contract, I'll file.)

The time is going to come when Jack's kids and their kids are going to be asking what he was up to when a whole system of society was turned around and subverted by crimes like the JFK assassination. He can't blame this on Drew, as he can that disinformation operation from Mergan.

This is still another currying of committee favor. You'll learn that without the most radical change this committee is a bummer.

"Now there are disturbing reports that the FBI and CIA are directing an undercover campaign against the committee." Maybe, I have no knowledge either way. But I have an opinion: they are crazy if they do now. Perhaps this would change later but as of now you (meaning the column), ^{have} a problem with simple English. This committee has said that the FBI was right in the JFK and King assassinations. Only maybe there was a conspiracy. Hell, Heever even covered the FBI on that in 1964. And on King he did the same thing in a different way. He filed a conspiracy charge in Birmingham.

"...are spreading derogatory stories about the committee." Maybe they are. I sure as hell can, and truthfully, entirely factually. I've a hunch I can tell you who the source on the nonsense about Ray having a conspiratorial meeting in Portugal was. You can call him. But you went because it looks like this committee will help fill the terrible demands of a daily column. If it develops the courage for fact you knew well enough where to turn for the legitimately and factually sensational.

I have no personal resentment ever or problem with this kind of journalistic garbage. We have never discussed my beliefs so you have no way of knowing how you have all over again given me credentials. If you'd read more of my work you'd know that it says that in time of great crisis all of the basic organs of society, all of society's protections, fail. I regard the press as one.

My concern is that with ~~each~~ each failure we become more authoritarian.

Today Sorensen took himself out.

There has been much on his alleged sins in the press lately. I have never spoken to him, seen him in person or corresponded with him. But I'm sure the speaks did not want him in charge.

By the time you can get this and do a column our first unelected will be history on skins. So maybe you could find a column on his doing more of the same and worse? He stole a top secret Warren Commission executive session transcript and sold it commercially. Were this not enough he lied about it under oath in his confirmation hearings. And were this not enough he edited it while pretending to reproduce it verbatim, with no changes or editing.

What else does it take to be the first unelected.

Or not to be able to oversee the wild animals trampling the forests.

This on Ford I've published, with facsimiles. It is the the last, the fourth, of my Whitewash series.

I don't know whether you realize it but you are now using descriptions I used in titles more than 10 years ago. Like "Coverup."

But to end with the beginning, your "withheld essential fact" you do not state or explain, the Commission knew and did not want any essential fact. If it had wanted what it did not have, and the most essential I have no reason to believe the FBI had, there was no power to prevent them from getting it. Including Hoover.

Did the FBI withheld? Sure. Did the Commission know it? Sure. I've referred you to some of this in my writing. There is another where you do not have to quote me. Ask Charles Shaffer, who was one of John Dean's lawyers, if he did not write an early memo on this, calling it as I recall "Information Breakdown." I think I have it in facsimile in Post Mortem, which you do have.

The sun riseth and the sun setteth and what else is now, friend?

Sincerely,

Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

U.S., Cuba Had Germ Warfare Plans

The United States and Cuba apparently planned to wage germ warfare against one another's livestock a few years back.

The Senate intelligence committee is investigating the startling charge that the CIA spread African swine fever in Cuba. The disease devastated the island's pig population.

Now we have learned that the Cubans had a scheme of their own to infect U.S. cattle with hoof-and-mouth disease. The idea eventually was abandoned, but in April, 1962, Cuban politburo member Antonio Nunez Jimenez discussed the hoof-and-mouth plot with four top Cuban scientists.

The amazing story has been buried in intelligence documents, which we have now seen.

Nunez Jimenez informed the four scientists, according to an intelligence memo, "that Cuba was now ready to give the United States a 'dose of its own medicine.'"

"Nunez Jimenez further explained," continued the memo, "that Cuba had the ability, through specially trained agents, to destroy the cattle industry of the United States by spreading an epizootic fever known commonly as 'hoof-and-mouth disease.'"

A hoof-and-mouth epidemic would have forced the destruction of the infected cattle. An outbreak in the United States in 1929 and in Mexico in 1946 wiped out millions worth of livestock.

Federal agents, alarmed at the first-person account of Nunez Jimenez' threat, made further inquiries and found that "the Cuban government had opened a bacteriological laboratory in Soroa, Pinar del Rio Province."

This secret lab, "located in the for-

mer orchid gardens of Soroa," was run by a Spanish exile named Dr. Martinez Viera. He was assisted by a Cuban and a former American resident. The latter was a woman who washed the test tubes and vials used by Viera, reported the memo.

At the time of the memo, written in 1963, it appeared that "Nunez Jimenez had made arrangements for three Soviet bacteriologists to take over the laboratory."

One purpose of the lab, interestingly, was to "determine the cause of an epidemic which completely destroyed the birds of a turkey farm." However, we can find no evidence that the turkeys, like a reported 500,000 Cuban pigs, may have been the victims of CIA germ warfare.

Another Coverup—There is no longer any question about it; both the FBI and CIA withheld essential facts from the Warren Commission about the assassination of President Kennedy.

The FBI never allowed the commission access to its files, and the members were so intimidated by the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover that they never protested. Instead, they relied upon FBI summaries and Hoover's letters.

We have now learned, for example, that the FBI had in its files at least 69 reports on the pre-assassination activities of Lee Harvey Oswald. Only 46 of these were summarized for the Warren Commission; the remaining 23 were held back. Thus, the commission accused Oswald of the murder without considering all the available facts.

The CIA also provided the commission with selective information and covered up crucial facts. Indeed, con-

gressional investigators say the CIA deliberately lied about some of the details that were furnished to the commission.

During the closing weeks of the last Congress, the House established a select assassinations committee, which has barely started its investigation of the Kennedy killing. Yet its investigators have already interviewed about two dozen key witnesses who had never been questioned.

They include people who had witnessed the shooting in 1963 and the scene afterward inside the Dallas hospital. Sources with important information in Mexico City and Miami were also interviewed for the first time.

Now there are disturbing reports that the FBI and CIA are directing an undercover campaign against the committee. Congressional sources say the two embattled agencies are spreading derogatory stories about the committee.

The CIA, these sources say, also offered to take over the committee's security. This incredible proposal would have placed the CIA, a target of the investigation, in charge of the committee files.

After the offer was rejected and investigators started asking embarrassing questions, the CIA allegedly urged the Senate intelligence committee to take the lead in investigating the Kennedy assassination. Apparently, the CIA felt that the Senate committee would be more friendly.

Footnote: At this writing, the CIA has not responded to our request for a comment. A Justice Department spokesman said the FBI is cooperating fully with the committee, not obstructing it.