

Mr. Les Whitten
1401 16 St., NW
Wash., D.C. 20036

4/6/77

Dear Les,

Although I am aware of the pressures of getting out a daily column and what all goes with Jack's and yours and I am, of course, aware of the lack of response to my other efforts, I would again ask you both to think that at some point your children and your grandchildren are going to be thinking of some of the horseshit that is of a consequence greater than crooked dogcatchers and venal tax agents.

In this morning's column, not news and a clear purchase of future leaks from a nutty and irresponsible committee, you succeed in what only a Mark Lane could have done, in my opinion of before today: you are unfair to the OPR finks. I know their work and it is not fair to say they were limited to 30 witnesses, among other things.

It also is unfair to attribute to the committee the misrepresentations of fact the committee cribbed from the OPR report.

Some of this supposedly new stuff published years ago. Some is palpable false, some of the face improbable if not impossible, some entirely unreasonable (Litton Industries). Other examples of the foregoing are the alleged corroboration of the "Liberto link"; the McFerren story, which originated with Bill Sartor; "the escapee had immediate access to false identities." As I've been telling George Gardner, who I'm sure will tell you, each time he checks one of these new sensations out I show him and say the committee can't even steal straight. On King beginning with the leak to you or my work once Evans bought copies from Jim Lesar. Here there never was any "false identity" in some of the cases.

I do try to keep up with these insanities and irresponsibilities in part so I can be of use to those of the press who ask. So now that the "sensitive" memo has been leaked to you I'd like to read it. By way of illustration of what is the norm I enclose my carbon of one account. If you want the original letter you can get it faster from Jim. I mean relating to my Snyder letter.

In my experience there has been nothing like this committee you are puffing since Martin Dies. I do know enough to guarantee you it is that bad. If you do not believe me send one of your kids to go over their two reports with me or ask Gardner what I did off the top of the head as he read it to me.

That they could be this terrible on their own boggles the mind and makes me wonder if they are being helped.

Now if you think from the Snyder letter that this was all after the story was out ask Adams of AP. I told him in advance, which may have contributed to its coming out.

And if you want to follow some on your own try for McBee one Harry McBurney, mother of Kensington, he of Cherry Hill, N.J., reachable through a lawyer at 245 N. Broad St., Phila, as I remember the name after eight years D'Aqui. I can look it up. This will lead you to one using the name G.G. Shufer, Palomino and Cochise, described to me as a whore who had been a stripper and I describe to you as a story coming from another orifice.

I know Sartor's work and I can guess who tossed in that supposed lead.

You will find that what is not overtly stolen and claimed as the committee's own work (generally of no established relevance as misused by the committee) is just nonsense as they chase the whips of all the nut theories.

While you rave in type.

Really, you people defame yourselves.

And hurt the country.

But I would like to see the "sensitive" because I fear further hurt and no good.

Sincerely,