

7.24/67

Dear Maggie,

Here are the reports you requested. Sorry I was too busy to stay on top so you'd get them faster. A hasty glance at 80 shows obvious defects. It is a defensive report omitting certain essentials. Do you want a copy of the Rankin letter of 12/30/63? Glad to get it. Also the pix and the motor-co memo, etc.

On a hasty reading this is a fascinating document, entirely for reasons other than prompted its preparation. I am certain these things will strike you immediately. I shall make and keep a copy but will not use it without your permission. I can use parts of it effectively on radio. With a copy, if you'd care, we can also compare notes. Among the obvious things, do not forget Kellerman's testimony, to the appropriate parts of which there is here no reference. What were they doing in the shop to that car if they could not rebuild it between 12/24 and 5/23?

Note that 11/27 report omits security prior to arrival from Texas. This report, supposedly definitive (concluding as it does, "This case is closed with the submission of this report") also omits significant matter of which the SS knew, witness Spc. 80. Every can has worms!

One of the things that interests me most is what fits so nicely on what I have for the book I have now decided upon, on the autopsy, the finding of the bone and piece of skull that no one looked for. Recall, this is exactly what I said in the first book. Ditto on the finding of the second instalment of bullet frags. I have determined to take some bullet, fragment and test bullet pictures of my own. Are there any you'd like me to take for you? I'll be glad to do it at the same time. The skull part, among other things, fits so nicely with the documents I showed you last December.

Please let me know your intentions for the use of this material, for I regard it as your literary property. If you do not intend to use it in your book and I very much think you should- I should like to use the parts that fit with the autopsy stuff. If you are not going to use it at all, I should like to add this to what remains of WWII after I do the autopsy book. (By the way, on this, I have a list of docs by the exhibits in which they were used. If you'd like a copy, let me know and I'll thermofax it for you. Please ask the others out there if they also would like copies, for the Thermofax is cheaper than Xerox and I'd rather do them all at once and save time and handling. I'm having it retyped to print in what will remain of III, not for reader interest, but for researchers to have, now and in the future.) But I do encourage you to add this to your book and I will not regard it as at all selfish if you want it not used until after you use it. I think you probably have other things that relate to it and can perhaps make better use of it than anyone else. I am reminded of the misuse of those FBI "autopsy" reports that I had located and let Paul Hock have in confidence and then others got them and misused them, taking the edge off for the use I intended. I'll be putting them to a proper use in the remnant III or more likely the auto. book. I'm sure you will not forget it, but I remind you of the clipping on the car you sent me some time ago, and again of Kellerman on it.

You should find the woman-witness report interesting, too. I find the Scoggins statement to the FBI, as here reflected, inconsistent with his testimony. Want me to get the original statement for you? Note that what is missing here is an FBI interest in or a Commission order to the FBI to get the statement of any woman Lane may have named or had in mind. This also shows they know about Nashes

and ignored them and their work and interviews--and witnesses.

I will send the docs separately, in the first outgoing mail, which will be tomorrow. Got back from DC with these reports today after mailtime.

Not when you speak to him, but when you see Bill he may have something I sent him this a.m. and something to tell you. If he hasn't doped out what it is about, tell him I said the answer is in what he has between his living room and his own room. They, please, neither of you say anything to anyone else.

Today I heard that Parallax responded to my ultimatum and has arranged to have my New Orleans book out in three weeks. The alternative I gave them was to return it to me for private printing. They are very nice people, small but honorable, principled and honest. There is a manana attitude that pervades the book-publishing industry. They have not yet decided on a simultaneous complete and more expensive paperback, with a 300-page appendix. I will do either the appendix or the complete book if they do not. I'll probably get the answer this week. I doubt if it can be profitable, and with the simultaneous reprint, I wonder if I can break even. However, I think it must be done.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do for you on yours. Bill says you are determined to go through with it. There is a small publisher in Arizona who appears to have wanted to do my New Orleans book. Name, Hooper. You can reach him through John Christian, P.O. Box 2850, San Francisco. If you write John be sure to tell him I suggested it. John is a business manager. I have never met him except by phone and mail. I like him. He is handling my movie interest in my work.

Best to you all. It will be no trouble to get the related documents if you'd like them. I've made a note of them and I may get them anyway next time I'm there. That will be more than a week from now. If I do, I'll send you copies if they look interesting. I have a 3M dry copier now that makes copies fit for reproduction. It is broken, which happened the first time I used it. I expect the service man today. It is also slower than the Thermofax. What this also means is that I can provide you with unreduced copies of any of the things I have that will be as clear when reprinted as what I printed. Holler if you want them. It will take time, but that is all. If they are printed, page number is all I need. The copy for the book is packed away that way. On pictures, they take about three weeks and are only \$1.50 for 8x10 black and white, \$10.00 for color (and twice as long), should you want any from the Archives.