

8/7/69

Memo to Bud, Gary, Paul on Secret Service response to my letter of 7/31.

My copying machine has stopped working entirely, as I learned in trying to make copies of Kelly's letter and the enclosure. When it is repaired I will make and provide copies. If Lil types it in time, I will include herewith my today's letter to him.

He tells me they have no copy of the autopsy authorization, which I just do not believe (and I think his evasion is in his reference to "our file", singular), but they do have a copy of the "death certificate". This he enclosed. It turns out to be other than that, one of the pages of the State of Texas inquest, dated December 6, and cannot be referred to as transmitted by 11/26, the date of Burkley's receipt to Bouck. Moreover, their copy is two separate sheets he has scotch-taped together.

One of the things this discloses is that the Secret Service has kept files of its own, of which I never had any doubt anyway.

Here again we have the Secret Service and the National Archives contradicting each other. This does not permit, in all probability, a later purging of the files. The National Archives says these items are not in the Warren Commission files. You have this and my response that I don't give a damn what files, please may I have it (not yet answered). Now Roweley wrote me that pursuant to Clark's executive order they turned everything over to the National Archives. This, unless there is some tricky language or cute evasion, means after 10/31/66, unless there are items given earlier and after the end of the WC. But, whether or not in the EC files, this has to be at the NA or somebody has cleaned out the files on the President's murder and its investigation.

I will be wanting to use this, so I ask that none of you mention it to others. However, I believe it advances our knowledge of the file situation or the integrity of the officials involved or both, therefore I believe you should know it. When I use this, which I anticipate will be in the near future, you who do not by then have copies will get them promptly.

It is becoming increasingly my belief that this is the short-hair department and that at least some of the officials knew it.

For whatever it is worth, the SS copy of that page of the Inquest is both smaller and sharper. I believe it is a copy of original pages, actual size and that CBS's copy is enlarged or, vice versa. The content seems identical, as does the document itself. But, compared to standard, one is over-sized, the other undersized. Neither is standard-sized paper.

Any suggestions? I know Paul, and perhaps Jim have been thinking of this, or rather what this is part of.