

3/26/70

Dear Paul,

Copies to Dick, Howard, who have appropriate literature accessible.

I have become interested in the bombings connected with the Rap^B Brown case. I have just obtained a copy of Hoover's telegram to the State^F Police (report being withheld) and it is what you'd expect, perhaps a bit more so-too much.

What I'd like to know is what you can tell me about explosions, if this is within your field:

Identifying material used (such as distinguishing between ordinary dynamite and other materials). Can it be analyzed from minute traces and its type identified? If there is a table of analyses of the various manufacturers products, could analysis indicate which (i.e., spectro, neutron activation, etc).

Can the strength of the explosion (not the concentration of the material) be approximated and expressed in some kind of standard term, like atomic devices are measured in terms of dynamite?

If the device was resting on the floorboards of the front seat, right side, is there any means of knowing how the force would have been exerted, if nothing were done to alter it (like shielding or blanketing)?

What kinds of residues would remain? Can they be identified with either a kind of explosive or a manufacturer? Is there burning, if close, etc?

Are there standard tests to be made, if you know?

Does anyone know what standard forensic-pathology texts say to be done (like Fisher, whose office did this one), to be learned, and how?

Any suggestions?

Sincerely,

HW