

If I do not have a
file on this center,
make on with brief,
to Gordon Eckel
or better place it all
under the center
and ref. the person
Eckel file to it
copies both with
Hrone. one in
this file for me
3 FL

Mr. Clarence M. Mitchell
1239 Druid Hill Ave.,
Baltimore, Md. 21217

6/13/93

Dear Senator Mitchell,

Please excuse me for not retrieving my correspondence with Mr. ^{a/}Grason Eckard but I have some difficulty using my legs, may not stand still unless I cannot avoid it, and I think I remember some clearly enough. I think for example, I suggested that my dear friend Dr. Gerald McKnight, History Dept., local Hood College, in his work for his as yet unpublished book on the March on Washington, may well have such information and he is near here so if you can pick a date when he is available that might be a good idea. He has in that book, for example, a list of the clergymen who got into FBI files by merely supporting the Poor Peoples Campaign. And I believe that two of the related files I got, on the Memphis "Invaders" and on the Sanitation Strike, hold the kind of information you may want. There is a duplicate of those pages at Hood, where there is an automatic copier. Mine is a slow one. I am certain they can be examined and copied there. I also have the cards made by a student who did a fine paper on them you can use or borrow.

When it comes to FBI dirty tricks of various kinds, my later books are full of that, especially the dishonesties. In addition to ~~that~~ those you mention there is a Whitewash IV and Post Mortem. Both contain verbatim transcripts of Warren Commission executive sessions in which they confess their fear of Hoover and the FBI. I also have more of this kind of information in a coming book the publication plans for which I do not know and really have not tried to learn. That it will be published satisfied me and at my age, 80, and poor health, I want to perfect the overall record for history more and I am in another book, not like these in the good they may do you, that is half written.

When you come, if you would like to, please feel free to tape record.

Because I cannot help getting up very early I try to be abed by 7 p.m. I work at my desk until 4 a.m., when I go and walk, more resting than walking. Three days, Monday's, Wednesdays and Fridays I then have a blood test and that is followed by some simple physical therapy. But even those days I am usually home by 9 a.m.

The only days that now look like they'd not be good are next Wednesday, the 18th ^{th. when} I have a late morning medical appointment ~~then~~; that week^N, 20-22, when some friends are coming for the awarding of honorary doctorates to my wife and me; Wednesday, 9th, a medical appointment in the late morning (and I'll have to get a chest X-ray before then but I've not made that appointment yet; 9/14. another late morning medical appointment; and 9/20, still another from which I should be home about 9:30 a.m. or slightly later, if the doctor is delayed in reaching me. *(I make them lat, mom my sel can take my wife to lunch from them.)*

Because my wife is 84 and can't really keep up with what she has to do when other people are here and often when they are not we eat out. Our preference is an excellent mon Ch pop

Oriental restaurant where we find the food excellent and inexpensive. And no wait. Fifteen minutes from here only.

Now when you get to FBI corruption, I have much but the great volume alone may defeat access. ^{Faced} with the FBI's corruption, I decided early on in all those FOIA cases that if I did nothing ^{else} I would make and leave a clear record for history. Please believe me, there was nothing heroic or theatrical in what I did. But it was, I think, a bit unusual and in terms of making a record I think strong. I did not resort to lawyers' filings when there was a question not of law. I stated all and stated it all in attestation, making myself subject to perjury charges if I even erred. ~~Not~~ There was no legal compulsion for the government to respond to what I alleged but the record is quite clear, it did not even try to. And this included my frequent allegations of official perjury! Even the courts did not care about that. They ignored undisputed official perjury! Of course they knew the press would not be there.

I have no way of knowing whether the government or the courts kept their copies but my lawyer, Jim Lesar, has them and my friend Mr. David Wrone, history professor at the university of Wisconsin has all or most of them. I have them all.

There is much I would like to tell you (pl) about the assassination of Dr. King and its covering up and the actual framing of Ray. All the stuff that has come out I regret to say including with the names of a black or two on it has been neither serious nor factual.

It has been a great disappointment to me that I could not interest any black in that work or in the book for that matter, other than Flo Kennedy arranging for an award of some time. As an example, Charlayne Hunter-Gault was then in the NY Times Harlem bureau. She had no interest at all when I phoned her. There is more. I am explaining why I did not return to ~~another~~ book I had started and laid aside to fight that and later FOIA suits. I had every reason to believe there was that much less interest in it. But if you know someone who would like to coauthor a book—no theorizing, all fact and can get here I think we can get the case in court on the only means possible today, as I understand it: new evidence. ^(And almost all official) There is no question, Ray could not have shot that rifle (which wasn't used in any event) and the FBI knew it. While I have always made all I got under FOIA available to all, and for the most part that means people I know I'll not agree with, I do not go out of my way to call to their attention what they do not find on their own in some instances. I did get a student to work for Ray's present lawyer, Bill Pepper. I have no idea what he wanted or she copied for him. I never do and don't want to know.

I regret, too, that John Conyers was the only member of the black caucus when my ^{who was interested} frame-up appeared. He was just wonderful! He sent me to the chairman's office and I did not even get to see him. The SCLC and the King family were no less distant. So I hope you can understand that even then being on borrowed time I decided to use what time remains for where there seemed to be the greater probability of it having meaning... To the degree I can I'd like to help you in any way I can.

cc: Wrone, McKnight

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg