

CITIZENS' COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY

BOX 150 • 308 WESTWOOD PLAZA
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024

STEVEN J. BURTON, National Chairman

Dear Harold,

I received your letters of 4/23, 5/2, 5/6, and 5/10 yesterday.

Marlynn's transcript of Hall was finished just after Hall left for New Orleans. I held your copy from the mails for a week purposely so that there is no chance of interference with Jim's copy and therefore Hall's interrogation. ~~How~~ Mailed to Frederick, Md. yesterday SB
A transcript of the Howard interview has not been made for two reasons; Howard went to New Orleans before one could be even started, and we have no other stenographers (at that time) to do it. You have a tape of the interview and, if you ask, I'm sure Bethell would get you a copy of Jim's interview, which is pretty complete. If Bethell or someone can't or won't do that, let me know and I'll have mine copied.

Your memo of 5/2 reminds me to obtain back copies of the INNOVATOR, but I have never heard of that publication or the necessity of acquiring copies before. I will be happy to have one of my people do what they can. Do you want all back issues since 1963? Only 1963? What?

As far as I know, Jaffe sent you everything he has on Colls. He may have re-interviewed the witness to get photos, etc., but I haven't heard. My communications with Steve, five miles away, are little better than my communications with you, 3,000 miles away. I'll see what I can do. As far as following him up, my understanding is that he has been given relatively low priority. First, he is dead, apparently. Second, there is no evidence of jurisdiction. Third, He does not, to my knowledge, tie in to anything else we know. I know nothing of the work you have done in this area.

I agree wholeheartedly with you about Mark's article on the Zapruder film. I was slightly offended by your recent letter in which you referred to me as "young friend, strong disbeliever" because you do not know that. I have my own opinions and disappointments regarding the way Mark works, as I do about many people. But I detest the bickering that takes place while we try to solve the assassination. Credit is secondary. Anyhow, it is not my place to participate in these disputes and I have no desire to. I think that it is highly commendable that you are willing to give Mark a platform on your TV time in view of your position. I hope it will not become a verbal slugfest.

It is not encouraging to hear of your experiences with the staff in New Orleans. I know that when I phone Ivon, he usually sounds depressed, but Alcock usually sounds enthusiastic. I was not aware of your disappointment with the competency of the staff.

At any rate, there is a good chance that I will be able to spend the summer in New Orleans due to the generosity of my father. It will cost Jim nothing, unless I will have to have a car for what they want me to do. I offered to do anything ~~kw~~ from typing to chauffeuring to actual investigating.

I know that I have not been terribly efficient these past few months. There are several reasons: 1) I am in part dependant on Jaffe for leads and communications. It takes no less than three days to reach him. Then, he forgets. 2) Until I bought a file cabinet this week, all my papers were in stacks. I would put a letter down and it would get burried, turning up months later. 3) Schoolwork 4) just plain disorganizaticn. I'm trying to spread my repponsibilities out further and limit my own activities to investigation and news dissemination. The other members of the CCI will take care of all else. It should be better, I hope.

The point being that, while I'm there, I will do as much as it is physically possible for me to do. That includes any leads you send me. I may not be able to work 20 hour days as you do, but I'll do as much as possible.

Who is Joel Palmer? You mentioned him in two letters. Fred's photo comparison on King's suspect has been printed in the San Francisco Chronicle. Turner used it for publicity for his campaign for Congress.

Incidentally, I cannot offer any defense for Lane or Harris actions in New Orleans, but Turner is running a campaign for Congress which takes all his time and energy. Before that, I know that he was making a contribution, albeit not a full time one. Even during his campaign, he continues to help Jaffe and I with his experience. The is mostly because of his proximity.

Re: Boxley interview with Howard in N.O., I was present at all times with Bill and Larry. A lot of questions were asked but few were answered productively. Jim had asked us specifically to try to determine who had injected Howard's name into the Warren Report records and we could come to no conclusion. Aside from that, Howard gave us a few addresses. In all honesty, I do not believe that Boxley can be faulted for this one.

We have not been able to get Dean and his material to a xerox machine. Fred tried and Dean did not show up. Al Swartz tried for two weeks and could not even reach Dean on the phone. This week, Fred took photos of Dean and he will try again.


I'm very interested in the NSRP, especially since the Drennan and Wheat subpoenas. Enclosed is a KLAC Radio special on that group. Anything you have that I do not, I'd appreciate copies of.

Enclosed is copy of memo on interview of Patrick. Not extremely productive, but worthwhile.

Since I am working with info on Cuban camps in Miami area and New Orleans (I don't trust Patrick, but I think he'll come around), I would like copies of what you have on the North Shore of the lake; when you have time. No rush.

That's about all for now. Take it easy and don't work yourself out.

Best wishes,


Steven J. Burton

May 15, 1968