

10/16/77

Dear Sidney,

A friend who gets the New York Times sent me a copy of the enclosed story. Assuming that you and Mike do not I'm sending you both copies. You may at some point have an interest in work done at a particular institution and he follows these matters closely.

I do not know about the availability of the Lashbrook papers. If I were trying to get them I'd approach the Bay area people who worked on the Post story, the college itself and if as I think there is, a state Freedom of Information law, I'd see if it applies. Once the story was out the CIA probably hit the college with a big bomb about the protection of intelligence sources and methods, etc., to prevent further access. A reporter friend in L.A. may know about the state FOI situation. Use my name with Art Kevin, WMPC news, 462-2501, home 761-3436. Art is a good investigative reporter. If he and I had both been in L.A. two weeks ago I'd have brought you together, or offered to, for just such contingencies. He is one of the two people who had to be away when I could get there.

It is possible I am wrong on the total number of pages the CIA has admitted having since I received the last they've let me have. Mike would be less likely to be wrong. I now believe that the number is fixed in my mind as a consequence of a news report. There was an announcement that so many pages had been found and then it was disclosed that more had been. One was described as largely financial records. If there are fewer than 18,000 pages then, of course, the costs would be less by that much.

I do not know why the CIA has not automatically sent me the most recent records or told me about them or started to pretend that I did not make a request, as Marks did or responded to my appeal or in failing to respond put me in a position to go to federal court at will and with a case that is an automatic victory. But they have. I'm inclined to believe it is stonewalling, to interfere with my work with my other work more in their minds. It is not impossible that they may know the records hold what I might spot and others might not but I'm inclined to believe that is too elaborate a scenario. But whatever the reason, I can't really go after these records piecemeal and I can't go after any unless I can send them a check to cover it. This is why I have not forced my appeal from the refusal, as the Act describes it.

It is possible that the financial records are neatly segregated but my prior experience leads me to believe they, meaning financial records, are generally productive of information. Whether or not it would be information within your interests I do not know. Some of my more important acquisitions have come from such files. This was not because of the records of expenditures or the sums but because of what goes along with such entries. The most Byzantine single record I've obtained was in such a file, as was what led me to be able to force out of oblivion some incredible transcripts of executive session conversation by the members of the Warren Commission. If these were of interest to you I'd go into more detail. But they said what nobody would ever expect, including we gotta destroy this record and how scared they were of Hoover and how the spooks lie, etc. Maybe Marks can provide copies of special parts of the releases. If you can identify any one I'm quite willing to get it and send it to you. Just give me the identification and an approximate amount not to deplet my account too much. If it is less I'll send the average back, if more I'll let you know.

There is another means by which I might be able to obtain all that I do not have. If you can make a suggestion I'd appreciate it. The Canadian government TV network had a crew chief here for another purpose in which I was able to help him. He appears to be a very good person. I asked him about them developing an interest over the McGill angle. He is interested but he has to be able to present a proposal that sounds like what they can do to get authorization and budgeting. I have not followed this closely enough to focus on what can give him a handle. I also have not been able to focus because of what has

been keeping me concentrating on it for a week, an FOIA suit and a lengthy affidavit for it, just completed. This part of CBC is their counterpart to CBS' 60 Minutes. My new friend would be producing such a show, or a segment of one.

If you see such a thing from your reading of the records I'd appreciate anything you can suggest. It could make it possible for me to get the copies from which I could supply copies to you and Mike.

I do not know and do not need to know what aspect of the science in all of this interests you. I do suggest that if it is not superficial, if you intend to make a real study of the purely scientific, you'll still want other records if only for leads on where to look for more. People like you and Mike should be able to fill in missing names and then you would know who to approach for scientific information.

By accident, for example, the Canadians found one who as a student was part of the McGill work. Today he is a well-known and respected college professor, California at that. He and other students let themselves be used in experiments from which he still recalls hallucinating because they needed money and because they regarded it as easy money.

I realise your study may be the kind for which you do not need all the available information or leads to other information.

If I find a way of obtaining them on my own I'll send you copies of what I do get. For this it would be good to know what seems to be more promising from what you know of the releases, so I can specify. There are some reporters from whom I might be able to get parts of what they or their papers obtained. I do them favors.

Do let me know as soon as you can if you want me to ask Marks for any part just on the chance I get to Washington. I would then hand carry them back, which is better assurance of their not getting damaged.

Please excuse the typing. I've much to catch up on after not attending other matters for about a week.

Best wishes,

SIDNEY COHEN, M.D.
13020 SKY VALLEY ROAD
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90049

October 10, 1977

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 12
Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Harold:

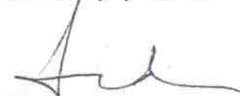
Your letter is here, and I'm sorry you didn't reach Los Angeles. I had spoken to Mike about some 2-3,000 pages of material that the Kennedy Committee had rediscovered, and told him that I'd be willing to pay 10¢ a page, plus postage for it. As you know my interest is in the "scientific" aspects of this document and would prefer that sort of information. However, I'm sure that such items cannot be selected out, and I recognize that I'd have to take a lot of fiscal items, etc.

The 18,000 pages you mention sounds overwhelming with regard to time available to review and space to store it all.

What I have done so far is to set down, in outline form, the various psychological procedures that the CIA had looked into, and the rationale for their doing so in order to achieve a coherent understanding of their efforts. This remains unfinished due to the press of other work.

I did attend one day of the recent hearings. Do you happen to know whether the Lashbrook papers are available to the public at Foothill College in California?

Sincerely yours,



Sidney Cohen, M.D.

SC:dec