

March 6, 1974

Good morning, Jim.

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is (once again) to obtain a withheld document from the National Archives, by means of a purely legal but discreet operation.

Go ~~xxx~~ to the National Archives and ask for Boxes 5 through 9 of Entry 44, the office files of Staff members. In Box ~~5733333~~ you should find (at the ~~end~~ ^{Box 7} end of the box) a folder marked ~~XXXXXXXX~~ "interoffice memoranda" and attributable to Mr. Curt W. Griffin of the Warren Commission staff. (seven)

In this folder, you should find a letter from J. Lee Rankin (probably drafted by Griffin or Hubert) to J. Edgar Hoover, dated March 26, 1964, and relating to information in the FBI's possession about certain ~~Comm~~ Cuba-oriented ~~xxxxxxx~~ groups, including the FFCC.

This letter is specifically required by executive order to be kept secret in the interest of the national defense ~~or~~ foreign policy (5 U.S.C. 552(b)(1)) because it relates to internal security matters. (Archives to Koch, 11/10/71, item 8) Furthermore, it is exempt from disclosure as an ~~xxx~~ inter-agency letter. (5/3/72 letter).

According to an unimpeachable source, this letter looks routine enough, on the basis of a hasty scan of this file. Nonetheless, it will be useful in our continuing struggle against the forces of suppression and other bad things.

You should take appropriate procedures to avoid exposure of this mission. Do not ask for Box 7 alone, or the Archives might re-screen it. If anyone is looking over your shoulder while you are carrying out this mission, you should be prepared to transcribe this letter on tape. Ordinarily, it should be possible to have a copy made at the main desk in the Archives reading room, while you wait, by personnel who don't care what they are copying. This copy of the letter does not bear any ~~xxxxxxx~~ classification stamp. However, under no circumstances should it be flagged for later copying.

This ~~xxxx~~ project will be known by the code name Executive Inaction. ~~xx~~ appropriate funds will be made available. Use great discretion if you have to assign this project to any of your co-workers, ~~xx~~ especially those known to be on the Archives' enemies list. It would probably be best that you not call the Archives in ~~xxx~~ advance; all of Entry 44 has already been screened.

Upon ~~xxxxxx~~ processing in a Uher recorder for 18 1/2 minutes, this message will ~~xxx~~ self-destruct. Good luck,

W. J. Bidell
Acme Numbers, Inc.

Jim -

It's me now. Just want to thank you for sending me the gov't response to the interrogatories, etc. Harold has sent me a letter with some more information. I know you are very busy, but perhaps getting a secret document would be nice diversion. (Also, the withheld memo with my letter of 2/20, of course.)

In the Archives letter of 2/15/74, for several withheld items, they did not mention the inv. files exemption. The inter-intra-agency one was used a lot. Has something happened to make the latter suddenly good for them to use? My recollection, probably from something you sent me, was that it was restricted to policy matters, preliminary opinions, things like that. I'm just mentioning this for your information.

Keep in touch!

cc: ~~xxx~~

Paul