

11/14/69

Dear Richard Edelman,

Please excuse the haste with which I respond to your letter of the 12th.

Although I do not have CDB4:114, that apparently was in my mind when I told you I believed Senator was ^{at} or had gone to Gloversville, N.W.

You say, "Paul Hoch also sent me the address of one David Lifton, who apparently knows quite a bit about the Kilgallen story. I hope to contact him shortly and will let you know if I hear anything new."

Lifton is, at best strange and undoubtedly mentally ill. He is also very bright. And he has hated me since before we met. So, if you want to get anything at all from him, do not let him know that you are in touch with me. I think it would be a good idea if you get in touch with Gary on Dave, who has had considerable experience with him. Gary's judgement should mean something to you. He may also have advice to give.

Good luck with your project. Lifton may have material others of us do not, and he may give it to you. I encourage you to establish the accuracy of everything on this aspect, including getting original sources rather than accepting interpretations, Lifton's or anyone else's. Here is an area where there are no Archives files to fall back on where, even if erroneous, they provide some sort of basis. Too many people, with the best intentions in the world, decided what they know means only what they want it to and in communicating with others transpose their conclusions, which need not be right, for the raw material.

Sincerely,

Gary- I leave it up to you whether you tell Richard any more. However, I think it might be worthwhile, if it doesn't take too much time, to see if Lifton prosylitizes and whether he gives Richard a) anything or b)crap....There are ways in which Richard can be helpful.

Harold Weisberg

319 Dryden Road
Ithaca, New York 14850
12 November 1969

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

I received your letter and that copy of Photographic White-wash today.

Gary had told me about Dorothy Kilgallen last spring, and he also mentioned what you said in your letter: that she was the only person who ever interviewed Ruby alone in jail. Perhaps he had heard this from you. There was a lot of talk at the time of her death about her having "leaked" parts of Ruby's testimony before the Report was published; she claimed to have gotten some evidence from "sources close to the Warren Commission in Washington," whatever that may mean. Her statement about "blowing the lid off the case in five days" also received widespread attention; unfortunately, I do not know of any source that clearly establishes the fact that she said precisely those words. This is one reason why Gary had me write to her husband--to clear up the mysteries about that statement, her missing notes, and the circumstances of her unusual death. (As you may know, the cause of her death was not established until eight days after she died--the autopsy performed the first day disclosed nothing.) Anyway, Richard Kollmar, her husband, has now had more than a month to answer my letter, and I doubt that he will respond. It's more than four years now (she died on 8 November 1965), and most of the grief must have passed, but he may want to forget the whole thing.

I received some important information from Paul Hoch about two weeks ago which may shed some light on George Senator. He sent me a copy of an FBI document labelled C.D. 84, page 114, dated December 2, 1963, which discusses the testimony of one Mort SEDER. It reads as follows:

MORT SEDER, 30 North Judson Street, advised that he is the authorized user of telephone credit card under phone number Gloversville 4-3087. This number is listed to his father-in-law, LEWIS BROTT.

He stated that he has spent many years in Dallas, Texas, and that approximately eight years ago he was the roommate of GEORGE SENATOR. He has known SENATOR approximately 30 years and believed that SENATOR was originally from the Gloversville, New York area. He stated that he lived with SENATOR approximately four years. Subsequently, SENATOR became JACK RUBY's roommate.

He stated that some time during the Summer of 1963, he visited SENATOR at 223 South Ewing Street, Dallas, Texas, Apartment 206. SENATOR did not have a phone so he let him into RUBY's apartment, #207, at that same location, and he used RUBY's phone to call his wife in Gloversville, New York. He reached her through Gloversville 4-3087.

He stated that he first met RUBY in around July or August, 1962, through SENATOR, and has only had occasions to speak with RUBY twelve to fifteen times since. He stated that he is not closely associated with RUBY and probably never would have been if it had not been for SENATOR.

He stated that he was enroute from Dallas, Texas, to Gloversville, New York, when President KENNEDY was assassinated.

He stated that he saw "live" on television the murder of OSWALD but he did not recognize RUBY until he was named in subsequent rebroadcasts of the scene.

He stated that he was very much surprised to hear of RUBY's role in the affair.

The notations at the bottom of the report state that this testimony was taken on Nov. 29, 1963, at Gloversville, N.Y., by SA Gerard A. Perkins. The File # is listed as Albany 44-267 and Dallas 44-1639.

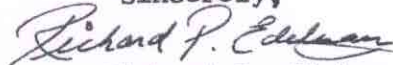
I have mentioned this to Gary, who told me last spring to check into that "rumor" that Senator had "fled" to upstate New York, and have asked him whether he wants me to contact Mort Seder, who might be able to clarify this story. I am presently waiting for Gary's reply. As for the "rumor," it was reported in one of the New York papers (probably the Post) ~~again~~ in the context of a resumé of the post-assassination mysteries. As I recall, this was around the time of the beginning of the Shaw trial--probably in February or March of 1969.

Paul Hoch also sent me the address of one David Lifton, who apparently knows quite a bit about the Kilgallen story. I hope to contact him shortly and will let you know if I hear anything new.

Gary is now back from Dallas. He will probably tell you about his findings in detail, if he has not already done so.

Thanks for the encouraging words.

Sincerely,



Richard P. Edelman