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Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
2/3/78

Mr. Paul Rothermel
2406 Little Creek Drive
Richardson, Texas 75080

Dear Paul,

As you probably know the FBI has released its second and last scheduled batch of records relating to the JFK assassination.

I obtained a set in a civil action against Attorney General Bell and others.

Other things that I must do have kept me from looking at any of these records.

However, I do make them available to others. Two reporters were here earlier this week for several days.

As they flipped through some of the sections on occasion my name took their eyes.

When it did they made copies for me, not to disturb the original files and so I would not have to go through almost 60,000 pages to find them.

I have not looked at those copies yet and won't have time to for a while. However, because of what they took to be carelessness by the FBI they called the enclosed to my attention.

There may be more like this but it will be some time before I know if there are. But if there are I'll be glad to send them to you.

Gemberling is up to his usual standard and he sure checked his secretary. Like "libel loss" for libel laws.

If you felt the earth shake on January 13, 1969 it was Gemberling: "H. L. HUNT referred to is the wealthy liberal-minded Dallas, Texan." (Emph. added.)

What the reporters took to be FBI carelessness was not. It was a deliberate act to disclose your identity. I am familiar with FBI FOIA policy and practises. I'll not bore you with the policy, but believe me they withhold the public domain and claim the privacy exemption. If I had a month added to my life for each instance I've seen old man Methuselah would be a has-been.

If you will look at the copy of my letter to you you will notice brackets around your name and address. These are the marks of the FBI FOIA analyst who makes the initial review of the records. Material enclosed within the brackets is recommended for obliteration under an exemption of FOIA.

Someone above him decided otherwise.

Gemberling plays a sure thing when he can: "The files of the Dallas office contain no reference to RENE LAMAREE." (Sic.)

I don't know how many sets of these records the FBI sold. I know AP, UPI and the Washington Post have bought them. There are sets permanently available in the FBI reading room in the J. Edgar Hoover Building. They have been talking about placing other copies in other places but I don't think they are anxious to. I'm more inclined to believe that despite the difference between their weight and mine they felt a little pressure when they made those noises.

My, if you knew the trouble the FBI has gone to and the trouble it has put me to over withholding of non-secret sources! And then they decide to disclose you. Somebody there does not love you. If it was a rare analyst reviewer who decided that the source exemption did not apply because there was no law enforcement, the privacy exemption did remain. Sincerely, Harold Weisberg