

December 30, 1977

Dear Harold,

Here is a listing of the latest batch of documents the AIB has sent me (#52-86), and a list of my clippings file on the FBI release (#1-50).

The AIB sent me the Washington Post story on your suit for the FBI documents. You are ~~xxxxxxx~~ certainly entitled to a set, and I hope you get it. I also hope you and the AIB will be able to get together ~~xxxx~~ before the second half is released.

The points you made (as quoted in the Post) about the FBI's "media event" are certainly well taken. You might be interested in the enclosed Reuters story, which I just got - it is a pre-release 12/7/77 story ~~xxxx~~ which makes it clear that FBI people (probably including Gemberling, who was on TV at the time) had a lot to do with the confidence of some of the press that there were no "startling revelations."

Sincerely,

Paul

PLH

High-^{FBI} releases

Dear Paul,

1/3/78

Glad to get your letter of the 30 and enclosed lists and Reuters story.

I respond in haste because some of these things can be of value in several cases including the newest, which includes remission of fees. Temporarily we can't do anything because Jim has one of the currently popular bugs, one of those reluctant to leave.

If I am unclear please ask. I may be going into Frederick. If I do I'll mail this to save a day over tomorrow's mail. However, I've lost the morning and part of the afternoon because of a trip to my Washington dentist and currently my mind is concentrating on not indulging nausea. I've been off the anti-coagulant for three days not to bleed at the extraction, was under instructions to take a heavy ~~dose~~ dose as soon as I got home, and I don't want to lose it because I'd fear taking more.

I still have heard nothing from the AIB. Which means they are confirming my low opinion of them. My request of them was for those records they discussed publicly that can be of value in my FOIA suits. Which you certainly know after Post Mortem are not for my writing. They haven't even been decent enough to acknowledge receipt. On their side they have been stealing and selling for years. They have even stole and distributed as their own original work what is uniquely photocopied from my published work. With this and a more dubious history if they can't send me a few xeroxes that will do me no personal good I can make other suggestions directed at what they can do with them.

I think I pointed out the error in the Post story. If you want a copy of the complaint let me know, not Jim. Easier for me. There was a Star story Sunday. I've not yet read it. From what Jim read to me there is selective use of quotes, without omissions not indicated, out of context use of correct quotes and a few things I certainly did not say, if at all, as represented. That woman phoned me 12/7. The story appeared 1/1/78. Not angled as she said in phoning me.

The Reuters wire copy may be of help to Jim when he argues or briefs the fee remission case. I'll get a copy to him.

This can also be true of some of the clippings on your lists. I've gone over them and place a marginal O where I am sure I have the stories. The others I do not have or may have in a different version, which can mean do not have, depending on the nature of the omissions and editing. I'll copy this and return.

I have put a ? opposite your 30, the Post's Lardner/Claiborne story. Here there also can be an edition difference because I have that story. If I understand what you say there are "(2 versions)." I have but one, from the early edition of the Post.

(By the way, I also have the Times/Crowdson WIA series.)

I've also made notes in the margin of your documents lists #s 52-71. Here I've put a check alongside those I think we can use in court or I can use to help turn the press from nuttiness. The two's are because those seem familiar but are not identical with what I recall. 62-2933: the misspelling seems to make it what I have ("Connolly") but the quasi-SET does not really fit. And with the next, Serial 2039, the description is not identical but the content appears to be. You ask about CD 5. The copy I have uses the language of the CD5 records I use in PM but in quotes. They sent an FD302 quoting what Shanklin sent and there is in CD5 what the agents wrote earlier, as I recall it.

If you have any opinions about how these can be used in the FOIA cases please suggest. And with others. Almost anything from the Lab is of value because we also filed for discovery and in their responses received none of this stuff.

Thanks and best wishes,

R269

R A3731)1BYLCYNIYC

KENNEDY (SCHEDULED)

WASHINGTON, Dec 7; REUTER - FOURTEEN YEARS AFTER THE KILLING OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY; THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI) TODAY OPENS A MAJOR PART OF ITS FILES ON THE ASSASSINATION TO PUBLIC SCRUTINY.

THE FBI IS REVEALING 40,000 PAGES OF DOCUMENTS ON THE SHOOTING IN DALLAS, TEXAS, ON NOVEMBER 22, 1963.

WHILE THE HITHERTO SECRET FILES WILL PROBABLY TOUCH OFF A NEW WAVE OF INTEREST IN THE ASSASSINATION; FEW STARTLING REVELATIONS ARE EXPECTED.

FBI AGENTS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE INVESTIGATION OVER THE YEARS NOTE THAT THE WARREN COMMISSION'S INQUIRY INTO THE ASSASSINATION WAS BASED LARGELY ON THE BUREAU'S INVESTIGATIVE RESOURCES.

AND AUTOPSY REPORTS AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT PARTS OF THE FILE ARE TO REMAIN SEALED IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES; CLOSED TO PUBLIC VIEW.

MORE 0136

R270

R A3732)LBVLZSACZC

KENNEDY 2 WASHINGTON

THE WARREN COMMISSION CONCLUDED THAT PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS KILLED BY LEE HARVEY OSWALD AND THAT HE ACTED ALONE RATHER THAN AS PART OF A CONSPIRACY.

THIS OFFICIAL VIEW HAS BEEN CHALLENGED OVER THE YEARS BUT FBI AGENTS CONNECTED WITH THE CASE SAID THEY DOUBTED WHETHER THE DOCUMENTS BEING OPENED FOR INSPECTION TODAY WOULD YIELD ANYTHING TO CONFLICT WITH IT.

THE FILES ARE BEING OPENED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT; WHICH LIMITS THE AUTHORITY OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO REFUSE PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN GOVERNMENT RECORDS.

THEY WILL BE OPENED AT THE FBI'S PUBLIC READING ROOMS AND THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR A VISUAL INSPECTION.

BUT ANYONE WHO WANTS TO TAKE THEM AWAY WILL HAVE TO PAY 10 CENTS FOR A COPY OF EACH PAGE -- 4,000 DOLLARS FOR A COMPLETE SET.

WHATEVER COMES OUT OF THE FILES; IT WILL NOT BE THE COMPLETE STORY.

THE SECRET SERVICE; THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA) AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT ALL CONDUCTED THEIR OWN INVESTIGATIONS; AND THESE ARE STILL SECRET.

PRINTED 0100

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Sincerely,

Paul

PLH

FBI DOCUMENTS RECEIVED FROM THE AIB
 (#52-71 sent 12/13; #72-86 sent 12/14)

PLH 12/19/77

#	ID	Pp.	Date	From	To	Subject
**	52 62-2278B	2	1/20	Belmont	Tolson	Problems in making reports available to Ruby trial lawyers
*	53 62-2606	2	3/12	JEH	Rankin	How the press got the LHO-rifle photo (O'Leary, etc.)
**	54 62-Unrec	1	3/6	DeLoach	Mohr	Tell UPI & AP, as well as O'Leary, that LHO & Ruby were not FBI
*	55 62-2781	2	3/26	Jevons	Conrad	Ballistics results on Tippit bullets
*	56 62-2782	1	3/30	Jevons	Conrad	Background from Bufiles on WC's independent ballistics experts
*	57 62-2624	2	3/14	Dallas	HQ	Transmitting bullets removed during Tippit autopsy
✓	58 62-2632	3	3/12	Jevons	Conrad	Cunningham contact with WC; request re rifle photo anticipated
✓	59 62-2760	3	3/12	Jevons	Conrad	Mtg w/ Eisenberg & Belin; Tippit bullets; independent exam, etc.
✓	60 62-2437	2	2/13	Brennan	Sullivan	Apologies from SS for decking SA Doyle Williams at Parkland, 11/22
✓	61 62-2442	3	2/7	Miami	HQ	LHM re John R. Klinner; Alpha-66 link alleged (not known to Veciana)
✓	62 62-2272	5	1/17	Miami	HQ	Allegation against Klinner (remarks on 11/22); background
✓	63 62-2504	3	3/2	Dallas	HQ	Re WC request re rifle #2776 (not C-2776?)
✓	64 62-2508	1	3/3	HQ	Memphis	Interview Davidson (J.P.) re reported anti-JFK remarks
*	65 62-2514	2	2/27	Rosen	Belmont	Wm. McKenzie's remarks on FBI-SS animosity; JEH: "put up or shut up"
*	66 62-2520	2	3/3	Rosen	Belmont	Refutation of McKenzie's allegations
✓	67 62-25??	2	2/29	Milw'kee	HQ	Reporter now convinced story of LHO at Fox & Hounds was a hoax
✓	68 62-2687	2	3/19	JEH:JCC	Rankin	Explanation of lab reports on paper bag
✓	69 62-2480	2	2/26	Griffith	Conrad	Shaneyfelt memo re review of films; WC interest not understood
✓	70 62-2486	2	2/28	HQ	Dallas	Do LHM and get photo of Lovelady (re allegations by Jones Harris &c)
**	71 62-2494B	2	2/26	Rosen	Belmont	WC concern re omission of Hosty notebook entry; good affidavits
		44				
✓	72 62-659	1	12/2	Donahoe	Belmont	Report that Billy Graham was warned by Connally about Dallas
✓	73 62-252	2	11/27	N.O.	HQ & DA	Denial by Ferrie of library card report; his claims re source
**	74 62-196	1	11/21	Dallas	HQ	SS says bulletproof car will be used in Dallas 11/22
✓	75 62-251	1	11/28	Dallas	HQ	Reported Connally thigh fragment - Gregory says it wasn't removed
✓	76 62-	1	11/27	Lab	Dallas	(P. 1 of ?) Lab results on cartridge cases, etc.
✓	77 62-1013	2	11/27	Dallas	Lab	List of physical evidence obtained from Lt. Day
2 ***	78 62-2933	2	4/15	Rosen	Belmont	Mtg w/ WC & doctors; Humes quasi-SBT, JEH concern re misspelling
2	79 62-2039	2	11/29	Dallas	Lab	Report on Connally thigh X-ray (Is in a CD - CD 5?)
2	80 62-1716	2	12/3	Belmont	Tolson	Talk w/ Katz. re Texas inquiry, WC liaison, & Olney ("horrible"-JEH)
✓	81 62-1733	2	12/10	DeLoach	Mohr	LBJ request re LHO-Tower correspondence; press release problem
✓	82 62-(2690B?)	2	3/17	Rosen	Belmont	Procedures for independent exam of "JFK" stretcher bullet
*	83 62-Unrec	1	3/18	HQ	Dallas	WC will be in Dallas; clear all requests thru HQ
✓	84 62-1712	2	12/9	Lab	Dallas	Report on Hughes film (no people in window)
✓	85 62-2894	1	4/10	Hoover	Rankin	Telling WC of Priscilla Johnson's "Harper's" article
✓	86 62-1735	2	11/24	Boston	HQ	Cover page for Priscilla J.'s 11/23 interview; ref to her "KGB" case

Total pp.:68

[Note: a rating of no stars does not mean "of no interest;" sometimes it just means that the topic is familiar from the Archives, and that additional information can probably be found there.]

CLIPPINGS ON THE 40,000 PAGES
(Copies available on request)

Paul L. Hoch 12/10/77

1. 11/30/77, Zodiac News Service, on Belmont memo of 11/24 (#95), from Tom Miller
2. 12/2, AP (Margaret Gentry), in the Washington Post: re 597 pp., ammo memo, and Oswald's movements in fall 1963.
3. 12/2, same story, S.F. Examiner: an apparently later version, with less prominence to the ammo memo and more to Oswald's movements.
4. 12/3, Dallas Morning News, Earl Golz; re Belmont-to Tolson memo of 11/24, etc.
5. 12/12 (out 12/5), Newsweek, p. 35; Bonventre, Martin & Lindsay, on the 597 pages: ammo memo, Army/Hidell, and Oswald's movements; the new material is "largely favorable to the FBI"; a slightly insulting tone re the buffs.
6. 12/7, UPI in the S.F. Examiner (East Bay [early] edition). Re urgent Walsh and Hoover messages right after the ass'n, Spanish report that Castro did it; various crank reports; Ruby and Cuba, etc.
7. 12/7, UPI (David Nagy), in the S.F. Examiner, later edition. Hoover's conspiracy suspicions; letters apparently not given to WC; Hoover's 12/12 memo re talk with LBJ; help from CIA; talk with Rowley; Ruby; next batch may shed light on what LHO said during questioning, etc.
8. 12/7, additional UPI stories, same paper: How Ruby got near Oswald; the Sibert-O'Neill report on the autopsy "which had not been released before," Oswald's account of shooting at Gen. Walker (interview of Marina, USSR file, etc.); [WC] leaks: they at first tied one to Ford.
9. 12/7, AP, in S.F. Examiner: Bobby got word first? (of JFK's death)
10. 12/7, same paper, source not indicated: why files were released, and what's being deleted.
11. 12/7, same paper, no source: Text of Hoover's memo of 11/22 (5:15) re talk with Schlei. LHO probably the man, etc.
12. 12/7, AP in Oakland Tribune, late (closing stocks) edition: JEH thought LHO a mean-minded nut; call to RFK; no "immediate or astounding new insight," LA Cuban story; Pedro Charles letter ("But the initial scrutiny of the files did not indicate whether this was a meaningful clue or ... a headline seeker"), JEH concern about FBI image; talks with RFK, etc.
13. 12/7, Reuter (full wire story) (3 pp.) "A plethora of trivia," LHO's deodorant; immense FBI effort; LHO exam at 13 (Hartogs); access to military secrets, etc
14. 12/8, AP in NYT (City edition): Hoover certain LHO did it; wondered about Cuban conspiracy; no info contradicting the WR seen so far; JEH 12/12 memo; pressure from Katzenbach, etc; with text of 12/12 memo re Rankin conversation.
15. 12/8, Marjorie Hunter in same paper; re AIB, the scene at the FBI, etc.
16. 12/8, Jackson & Kempster, L.A. Times: nothing to alter WR finding; JEH-RFK, JEH 12/12 memo; Pedro Charles letter; LA Cuban story; cranks; Ruby, etc.
17. 12/8, UP in S.F. Chronicle: Cuban leads "apparently uncheckable," Hosty told to shut up; Rowley; Hoover's 12/12 memo; CIA cooperation
18. 12/8 S.F. Chronicle, p. 6: same as #15, with local addition quoting Scott and Hoch
19. Same paper, 2 more UP stories: Ruby's motive; JFK's last words (!)
20. Same paper, AP on memos on Hoover's concern with press (WP editorial killed; concern about unfavorable Pearson column)
21. 12/8, Oakland Tribune, 6 a.m. edition; UPI: variant of #17.
22. Same paper, additional UP stories: report on autopsy; FBI checked crank leads; coincidence gave Ruby his chance; "word-by-word report" on LHO's address book was in the 40,000 pages - a jumble of notes.

CLIPPINGS

PLH 12/10/77

23. 12/8, S.F. Examiner, AP: nut reports.
24. Same paper, UPI: what Jackie & Connally said; discrepancy in reports of JFK's last words.
25. Same paper, Knight News Service (Saul Friedman): Hoover's zeal in defending FBI; his anger at McCone leake (1); JEH call to RFK, etc.
26. Same paper, p. 21: from NY News: Ruby said he was blinded by fury
27. Same paper, p. 46: Silly editorial, "Paper flood in JFK ass'n"
28. 12/9/77, S.F. Chronicle, p. 14, UP: What next batch of papers will tell. (Will bring file up to date; no major new revelations, says FBI spokesman; also: CIA said LHO not informant; LHO a hostile, hermit-like Marine, etc., but WR stands.)

[SECOND SERIES

PLH 12/20/77]

29. 12/7/77, Dallas Times-Herald, Dudney; FBI files renew questions on JFK. (From MEF. Mentions ammo memo)
30. 12/8/77, Washington Post, p. 1-12. Claiborne & Lardner, "Bickering [or "Infighting"], but little new evidence" (2 versions) (A major story)
31. Same paper, p. 1-12; Jacobs & Kessler; "Tips, tipsters probed"
32. Same paper, p. 12; Sinclair; "All for the answer: a nation of unrelenting skeptics" (re Weisberg, AIB, etc.)
33. Same paper, p. 13; Valentine; "FBI tried to avert Post editorials"
34. Wash. Star, 12/8 (Night final edition), O'Leary & Dickenson; "Ford reported to FBI on Warren Panel." (Leak of "D" story to Pearson, and other major topics.)
35. 12/8, Scripps-Howard wire (Goldenberg & West), various topics [Lab tests on the paper bag are referred to as tiny details!]
36. 12/8, Wash. Star, Night Final edition; Dickenson; "Oswald: He had 'strong beliefs against everything'."
37. 12/9, Frederick Post, p. D-12; Fouche; "FBI should have released JFK files long ago - Weisberg." (Goes into ex. sess. evidence on leak of FBI report, etc.)
38. 12/9, Wash. Post, p. 1-8; Lardner & Claiborne; "Investigative unit for Warren panel opposed by FBI" (and other topics - e.g., Hoover on Lynd & Minnis. Good.)
39. 12/9, Wash. Star, p. 1-6; O'Leary & Dickenson; "Oswald plan to move here bared." (Another old 'new' item. Other topics covered. My copy is incomplete.)
40. Same paper; Dickenson; "Quarter ton of files fail to change varying views on Kennedy death." (Various topics, including medical; 'jet effect' mentioned.)
41. Same paper; Outrageous editorial (suggesting anti-conspiracy pill!)
42. Wash. Post, 12/10, p. B11; Jack Anderson on Army-Hidell (turning it around!!)
43. Phila. Sunday Bulletin, 12/11, p. 4; Daughen; "Warren panel's critics unconvinced by FBI papers." (Quotes Katz, Hoch)
44. Village Voice, 12/12, p. 12 (Cockburn-Press clips) Passing reference to drowning the press in paper.
45. S.F. Examiner-Chronicle, 12/18, p. TW8 (wrapup - emphasis on Pedro Charles)
46. Same paper, p. SS9; Liz Smith column confusedly mentioning Lattimer, the 40K pp., &c
47. Newsweek, 12/19 (out 12/12), p. 28-33; Boeth, Clark & Lindsay. Ghastly! Precise but very misleading paragraph on the "no exit" story at the autopsy - they must have had a good source! Many topics covered.

CLIPPINGS

PLH 12/20/77

48. Time, 12/19 (out 12/12), p. 18-24; "The FBI story on JFK's death." The files have come down to 60 lbs. now. Sloppy; misquotes ammo memo. Sidebar: "Freedom has become license under the Information Act."
49. U.S. News & World Report, 12/19, p. 15; "JFK killing: FBI files raise questions, give no answers." (Better than the previous 2 items.)
50. S.F. Chronicle, 12/19/77, p. 7 - A.P. (based on DMN [Golz] story) - "Why FBI watched assassination author" (Priscilla) [Erroneously states the FBI considered her a suspect in the assassination.]