

Dear Jim, attached letter to George Lardner

2/9/78

George is busy on the Flood story. He called me last night at about the middle of Ruby and Oswald so I missed most of the last part of that. However, I do expect CBS to start a campaign to move Ruby's body to Arlington Cemetery and have an eternal flame with its loving, patriotic spirit.

The Post did have a stronger cover Lane's press conference. There was nothing to it. Lane's representations were false. Swearingen did not say there had been a conspiracy to kill JFK. Instead he said he was not part of the investigation of it and had no personal knowledge. Maybe he is just p'ed off, attracted by the big reward offer or just looking for the job he got.

George confirmed my hunch that the Assassins Committee staffer whose secret paper Blakey gave to the CIA is Fonzi - best investigator of them all to Lane, who says a job awaits him. That makes the Flynt million safer.

I told George that anyone could do the story of the offer by the country music singer but that it not only had no visible connection with the actual killing - there was not even a basis for conjecturing it. I offered him all the records, for any Post reporter, here or through you. I told him it was dated about 1976 or later and would be in the last couple of sections we have on "ing."

The reason I made the other offer is because he has not read enough of those FBI records to have his own doubts about the kind of investigation that was made if not of more. He got himself relieved after he got bleary-eyed, after having read about 50,000 pages. I don't recall if in all or of the second batch.

If you can get a copy of the assassins report please do. I think you can get it by mail by phoning Fauntroy's office and saying nothing more than can you please have two copies. They say no conspiracy. (Still too early for me to go out for the paper so this from the radio news wire. I also heard last night that UPI did have a story on 2155 on the radio wire. This comes from a ~~former~~ reporter I've not seen in several years. He now has a talk show I'm going by phone this afternoon. He called as soon as the Lardner conversation ended. He did not keep the item.)

George has a tape of the Lane press conference. I'll get it if I don't get one from Gandolfo. I guess Lane again took credit for digging out the "missile" receipt. George remembered it from I guess Post Morten, but he knew I'd gotten it under FOIA. So Lane is the same Lane Brain, to coin a phrase. So sick!

This is going to shape up into a real potential with two wealthy corporations involved, inextricably, both paying for his promotions and publications. We do want to collect all we can.

I did get started on the government's brief in 77-1831 last night. I'm tying it.

Best,