

1/12/71

Dear Bud, Jim,

One thing I forgot to ask you when you were here Saturday and reported your conversation with Arch and the arrangements made for copying the declassified documents is if you learned how many there are or got an estimate?

If the total number of pages is no greater than perhaps 2,500, the funding I have been promised will cover two copies of each, and I think that I also, especially with the pending ~~xxx~~ litigation, should have a numerical file of what was declassified as well as a copy of each to file by subject or intended use.

In some cases I will need multiple copies over this, as with the Ferrie pages, but if they will make problems in getting copies from the "originals", even though it will cost more than twice as much to make them with my machine, and take considerable time, I will make them with it.

After you left, I went over the Ferrie pages Jim got for me from CD 75. It was somewhat reassuring to know that I do understand those crooked "scholars" and to find that I correctly anticipated their ploy, sending me some of them but carefully omitting perhaps as many as they sent - exactly the ones they denied me when I filed the DI-118 and Mitchell denied on appeal - when they were declassified!

These pages also contain what is to me significant information. It is all consistent with what I told you, and not a single page is inconsistent. Our knowledge and proofs on Ferrie are greater, his role, his minimal role, that is, clearer.

It seems to me that Bob might learn a bit from this incident of the Ferrie documents, if he is willing, but I think it would be better for him not to learn if he disclosed this understanding to the Archives. He just wouldn't believe they are capable of such dirty little tricks, and he absolutely refused to believe the incidents I ticked off, from the top of the head, of which there are quite a few. Some people cannot ~~if~~ avoid disclosing their feelings, and it might be better if Bob's reflected attitude ~~might~~ toward the Archives remained unchanged. But if he can, at the same time, know they are capable of the kind of "unscholarly" procedure by which they have victimized me and killed the effectiveness of some of the more significant data, it might also help him get what they might not want him to have.

And, speaking of what he has gotten, if it includes a single page of value or a single page relevant to the areas in which it is well known that I have been and am interested, I have been given no copy and not told of anything. This is quite contrary to what I have done with you. Aside from the possibility of not helping the part of the work I do or not increasing my knowledge and understanding where this might be done, there is always the possibility of your not understanding some of this as well as you might and the continuing danger of premature use of good materials that are incompletely investigated and of killing the possibilities. Others or us have no problems with this kind of cooperation, and we undeviatingly respect the wishes of those who first locate the data. The most recent example of ~~x~~ this is one of which Jim is aware. I had included the fact that Quiroga was an FBI informant in the draft of the Ferrie complaint. Paul felt this might interfere with further discoveries, and Jim will remember that I told him this meant it had to come out. Problems exist only where people make them exist. Cooperation does not exist only where people do not want it to...I look forward to going over all declassified pages. With the more significant ones I plan to do memos on each, so that, ultimately, everyone can understand what I find in them. The question is one of time, not intent. I have already done this with the Ferrie stuff they sent, but not with what they withheld.

Sincerely,