

C.c.

TO THE HONORABLE THOMAS N. DOWNING, CHAIRMAN
Select Committee On Assassinations
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sir:

Obstruction of justice and concealment of crime was not ended by the "Watergate" trials. It continues today in the offices of other partisan offices-holders.

Here are the facts of their strategy of frustration as experienced in my four-year attempt to expose the conspiracy designed to kill Governor George C. Wallace, the maiming of whom gave Nixon the White House for his disastrous second term and which thrust upon the United States our first un-elected President.

The hired gun-man, Arthur Bremer, is - at last report - in the Maryland Penitentiary at Baltimore. However, we have sufficient facts, I feel, to put four of his White House employers behind the bars to keep him company. Actually, two of them are already under sentence for "Watergate" crimes. The other two conspirators await exposure at our hands.

Removal by violent means of an opposition candidates from a Presidential campaign occurred for the first time in our government's 200-year history when, on May 15, 1972, Governor Wallace was brought down at Wheaton Shopping-center in Maryland. Jeb S. McGruder, throughtout 1971-72 a key figure on the White House staff, has written: "The Alabama governor was a constant concern to us....the consensus was that he would hurt us and there were constant discussions and plans on how to keep him out of the race, ranging from preempting him with go-slow integration policies to our putting several hundred thousand dollars into the campaign of the man who ran against Wallace for governor in 1970. The on-going White House concern about Wallace was reflected in a constant stream of memos from Haldeman asking us for up-to-the-minute reports on how many State primaries Wallace would be able to enter." (*Page 222, "An American Life") On the opposite page we read: "...all our political contacts in California stressed that Wallace was a serious threat to our hopes there, and that keeping him off the ballot was highly desirable." (Pg. 223) On Page 247 we read: "We could not know it at the time, but two events that May, the President's bold military action in Vietnam and the shooting of Governor Wallace a week later, had all but guaranteed the re-election of the President. All we had to do was to sit back and wait for the Democrats to nominate George McGovern." (*Pocket Books, Simon & Schuster, New York)

IT IS OF TREMENDOUS IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES THAT THIS "SHORT-CIRCUITING" OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS BE CONDEMNED EMPHATICALLY AND REJECTED AND ITS PERPETRATORS BE ADEQUATELY PUNISHED.

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My first effort to expose this murder conspiracy culminated in my Petition to the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. I petitioned for a Grand

Jury investigation of the attempted murder. On April 10, 1975, my Petition was denied by Chief Judge George L. Hart, Jr., and filed by the Clerk as Misc. No. 75-52.

It was on October 31, 1974, that a friend of mine had carried my Petition to the office of Judge Hart, but he had been diverted by the Clerk's office, being told to take it to the District Attorney. The D.A.'s office sent him to the Grand Jury Section. There he was sent across town to the Special Prosecutor's office. A functionary there accepted the Petition, giving a receipt. Three months later, no word of any action having been received, I wrote, reclaiming my Petition, receiving it back as of 3 February, 1975. The parcel of nine (9) Exhibits had not been opened, and the Petition was in very good condition for a manuscript which may (or may not) have been thoroughly studied.

The Petition recounted that the Director of the FBI, Clarence M. Kelley, on June 24, 1974, had rejected my request for a copy of that agency's report on its investigation of the murder attempt at Wheat. He supported his action by referring to U. S. Code, Title 5, Sec. 552(b)(7), and suggested that, if dissatisfied, I could write to the Attorney General or could seek judicial review in a United States District Court.

I appealed the decision to the Attorney General and, on June 26, 1974, Attorney General Saxbe affirmed Director Kelley's decision, quoting the Freedom Of Information Act (as in the Paragraph above). Atty.-Saxbe wrote: "Release of such records would tend to impair the law-enforcement effectiveness of the FBI."

In response to an inquiry from me requesting advice, U. S. District Attorney Earl J. Silbert wrote on September 30, 1975, "... I have no recommendation to make to you at this time as to what more you can do."

On August 7, 1975, I had written a second time to Director Kelley of the FBI and received a reply on November 10, 1975. He re-quoted Title 5, Sec. 552, with additional paragraphs, namely, (b)(6) and (7)(C). The following amazing paragraphs in the reply read: "It is our position that the disclosure of these records would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy of both the subject and victim of this crime. Before your request can be granted it will be necessary for you to submit notarized authorization letters from Governor Wallace and Arthur Bremer granting approval to utilize any information we will be able to furnish you. Submission of these letters should not be interpreted as a guarantee that you will be furnished all the material you requested. Upon receipt of the above authorization letters our files will be reviewed and any information we are authorized to release under the Freedom Of Information Act will be sent to you. You have thirty days from the receipt of this letter to appeal to the Attorney General from any denial contained herein."

I appealed the above letter to the Attorney General, now the Hon. Edward M. Levy. Its receipt on November 24, 1975, was acknowledged on February 4, 1976, by Richard M. Rogers, Deputy Chief, "Freedom Of Information And Privacy Unit", office of the Deputy Attorney General. This, too, is an amazing letter because of its

puzzle in numbers. It states that appeals are being assigned numbers in the order of their receipt, and that Appeal No. 589 was at that time being processed. My appeal had been assigned the number "1,200". Now, "1,200" is a "round number", evenly divisible by 100, by 5, by 4, by 3, by 2, etc., and how it could have been attached to my appeal - so obviously distasteful to the other agencies of the administration, - must have called for the intervention of Diety.

Finally comes the letter of July 9, 1976, - quite unexpectedly, - from FBI Director Melley's office. This I must quote in full:

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to my letter of November 10, 1975, which denied you access to FBI documents pertaining to the shooting of Alabama Governor Wallace.

After consultation with a representative of the Department of Justice Appeals Unit, we have decided to process documents pertinent to your request.

As a result of a preliminary review of documents pertaining to your request, it is believed that processing of these documents may result in charges in excess of \$25. Department of Justice Regulations, Part 16.46 (Code of Federal Regulations, Part 16.46) require notification to a requester when anticipated charges exceed \$25. This letter constitutes such notification.

I must caution, however, that your indication of approval and consent to incur such fees will not necessarily result in the entire contents of our records being disclosed to you, since we are guided by the provisions of the Freedom Of Information Act (Title 5, United States Code, Section 552) and the Privacy Act of 1974 (Title 5, United States Code, Section 552a) in disclosing materials from our records.

Accordingly, before taking actions, I will await receipt of written notification from you indicating willingness to pay fees in excess of \$25 in connection with the processing of your request.

Sincerely yours,
Clarence M. Kelley
Director

On 13 July, 1976, I responded, accepting the burden of paying any excess costs above \$25, and pointed out that I have already spent about \$750 on the investigation. But in two postscripts I added the following:

Postscript: Would you tell me, please, when President Nixon, on June 27, 1972, ordered the FBI to discontinue investigation of the Watergate break-in, did that order or a similar one on any other date cause the FBI to discontinue investigation of the shooting of Candidate Wallace?

Postscript #2: In view of a story in "TIME" magazine about Hunt and Liddy discussing ways to poison Jack Anderson, what about the death of J. Edgar Hoover on May 2, 1972, preceding the shooting of Wallace on May 15?

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The above letter from Director Kelley three months ago now, and my compliance with the requirement specified, have brought me no further word. (NO Further Word!) A newspaper story out of Washington, on about the date my letter would have reached Washington, that Director Kelley, from his hospital-bed in Bethesda, has just fired his Deputy-Director, Mr. Callahan, without benefit of pension!

Finally, my investigation turned for help to the Internal Revenue Service. In view of the fact that the gun-man, Bremer, had abandoned, - suddenly, - two jobs in the midst of the cold Wisconsin January in order to dog the campaign-trail of Governor Wallace, and had -(according to the purported "Assassin's Diary"*) - been spending money extravagantly from Milwaukee to New York City, it seems obvious that he had been paid for the job, and also also that he had received money for the paperback "Diary". This (*Harper & Row Press, the royalties paid to Attorney Benjamin Lipsitz, 2604 Maryland National Bank Bldg., 10 Light St., Baltimore, Md.)

led to the exchange of a half-dozen letters between me and the Internal Revenue Service in Washington, Baltimore, and Milwaukee, beginning May 28, 1976. Eventually IRS offices in Baltimore admitted that Bremer had filed Income Tax statements for 1972 and 1973 but none since then.

The IRS Regulations forbid the disclosure of the contents of an Income Tax report unless on the order of the President of the United States. Accordingly, on August 28, 1976, citing the Regulation covering the matter, I wrote to President Ford, asking that the IRS be authorized to make this disclosure to me. No response has come from the President directly but within a few days a brief note was received from the Internal Revenue Service specifying that the matter was receiving their attention. It will soon be two months since that office of the IRS began to attend to honoring the order of the President.

How much money was Bremer paid to pump five 38-cal. pistol bullets into President Nixon's most feared rival in the campaign of 1972? Various sources, including Magruder, relate that Gordon Liddy was authorized by Mitchell to draw \$250,000 from the CREP fund and no receipt was required. Liddy and Howard Hunt had left Washington on January 7, ostensibly bound for Los Angeles (but the shortest route to Los Angeles lies via Chicago). On the 7th of January a local newspaper* reported that Florida's secretary of state, Richard Stone, had received a phone-call from Montgomery, Ala., inquiring if Wallace had yet registered for the Florida primary; and he was told, "no; not yet"! The last day for filing was January 13, and Wallace filed that day. On January 13, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Arthur Bremer, school-janitor and part-time bus-boy at the Milwaukee Athletic Club, bought his 38-cal. "undercover model" pistol. Almost a year later** the wife** of Howard Hunt was killed in an airplane crash at Chicago's Midway Airport and her suitcase was reported to be stuffed with \$100,000 in "CREP" Treasury bills. A United Airlines attorney has written me that the amount was more like \$10,000, but when I asked the National Transportation Safety Board for a report on the matter I received only technical information about the crash. Howard Hunt has disclosed in his novel, "I Came To Kill", that an American can be hired - (in a novel) - on the plan of "half-down", the other half after the killing, or in a banana republic at the date of his novel, \$6,000 down and \$6,000 after the deed is done.

(*Panama City NEWS-HERALD)

(** Dec. 8, 1972)

(*** McCord's testimony)

{ R. 283, "All the President's Men" }

18 October 1976

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