

8/1/70

Dear Bud,

Monday morning I'll be returning this Ferrie file. When you loaned it to me, we were supposed to be getting together in the peace and quiet up here to go over it and what I saw in it. With the passing of so many months without this happening, it seems a fair presumption it isn't going to, so I return it in order that you may have it and to prevent mislaying it.

At the time I went over it I made a few notes the return of which I'd appreciate after you read them. I appear to have made no copy. Here, having just skimmed it again, I add a few more.

Rather much of it is not from the confidential source you are anxious to protect, understandably. Garrison seems to have been the source in many cases. In others, you got from the confidential source what should have been and would have been available had we asked for it in N.O. With those, where any identification of your source appears, it would be a very simple matter to mask that end, even if through some mischance, copies were to get out, they would thus not be connected with your source, for JG would have provided, as everyone knows.

I go into this not so much because I'd like copies and think that with one possible exception can make more sense and use of them than anyone else. That exception is Paul, and I am as strongly of the opinion as I can be that everyone's interest, including yours and that of your project, really requires that everything possible be provided him and Jim S, on any confidential basis you dictate, for them to go over with greatest care. This is very rich raw material. It requires the examination of those who can evaluate and correlate, on in the latter category, even the numbers can be of the greatest significance. I believe I gave you a copy of what Jim had already done with numbers alone.

Some of this is dated and is of long after the activity and interest of your source, so where the source is not indicated, it cannot be that one.

The CAP lists can be of enormous importance. Note the couple of things I've indicated, and this is but what I noted in hasty perusal. Jim and Paul may find much more.

There are vital discrepancies in the official accountings of the period of Ferrie's separation from the CAP. But the estimated period of his campings at Keesler, the accounts of the various members, the names, etc., can mean much if P and J can find dog. The Keesler thing may closely fit another mystery we have developed there.

I do think that if anything confidential is so marked, Paul can be depended upon to preserve confidence. However, now that you are preparing to feed a computer, I think his close examination, and Jim's, can be invaluable to you in everything and possibly in a few to me.

There are vast gaps in this material that cannot be accidental, esp. the Southern Research stuff, which makes no mention of those of Ferrie's connections of which these former FBI men had to know, connections leading back to Uncle: FBI and ONI personnel, current and past, inc. through Benister and Martin and they sure knew of these two; the nature of his Gill relationship; his entire Cuban career, well known before this investigation and leads to which could not be and were not avoided (viz, Mil. Order World Wars). Despite the importance of this kind of client, those boys looked out for their own first of all, even at the client's expense.

I am also satisfied that the IU file on Ferris predated this investigation. However, carefully as the sex stuff is sought out, there is no reference of any sort to that. Accident? I think not.

How strange that of all the pistols Ferris could have bought, so close to the assassination he got one so like IHO's! When Stone broke, allegedly. If Garrison's story of when he started his investigation is correct, and I have my own reasons (not congenial to his ego) for believing it is not, that it was much earlier, then this date could not associate the purchase with the investigation.

The Society Page names provided by Dean Andrews are other than those he provided me. Two of mine yielded information contrary to what Andrews was feeding, quite opposite what he told me.

It is also quite apparent that the Ferris-Andrews relationship here reflected can be of considerable significance. Again, numbers may be a valuable clue to Jim S.

There is one thing included with the police stuff that seems to me most likely to originate with David Chandler, who was given access by the police. It is dated 8/18/61. There are other possibilities, but all should include a man with newswriting experience, P and J should also have this, again for names.

Above all, the CAP names are not from your confidential source and these men should go over them very carefully, if only to isolate those officially ignored. I'd like to know, and for them to know, the source of some of the holograph notes.

Some of this relates to what is left as mystery in O in NO, like Baragona, with leads with which Jim can do things.

Even as this material is confidential, I would encourage you to consider if that confidence cannot be preserved with Jim and Paul being able to examine some. There are things here that can enable the cracking of tough nuts, one of which I've been squeezing for some time. J and P may make it possible. Our former friend with whom we no longer enjoy cordial relations just might do it and do it properly if what I have, enough for almost anyone else, can be added to materially, as this can make possible. It could be enough to break the entire N.O. thing. This I will not go over with you in your office, but will if we have a period of isolated peace and quiet....And some could be invaluable knowledge to have in hand in the event it might become useful in one of the suits to be filed.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg