

Ford - Informant

Dear Paul,

9/20/79

When Ed has caught up on the accumulated copying and I have a chance to go over it you will be getting a copy of a record that is interesting and may, perhaps, have some value in your book on the committee.

I find it interesting about the Commission.

From a source identified as no more than a source, I suppose Ford, in June or July 1964 the FBI had the third version of the Report.

As of then the Report/said that either the first or the third shot missed, the Commission was not sure which.

In other records of the same period it is clear that the transcripts of testimony also had been set in type and could have been released with the Report. In not later than a July record there is reference to the type-set transcripts and as of that approximate period there were xeroxes of some of the FBI expert testimony attached. Xeroxes of page proofs.

So we have a Commission whose Report was largely written before it took much of its testimony.

Getting copies of each of the versions of the Report, if they can be or are dated, would make a revealing study. (You may recall that the first chapter of Post Mortem is titled Conclusions First.)

My recent reading matter has been the Commission file, 62-109090. What I refer to is about Serial 185 in it, with other relevant records repeating some of it. Because most are not recorded this is Section 17.

After seeing your clipping list reporting that Orest Pena was charged in New Orleans I heard that Lane is his lawyer and that DeBruys is a sort of special prosecutor. I've seen no stories so far. I have also heard that the trial is scheduled for about now. I'll be interested in any news accounts you get when you get them.

Orest flipped out long ago but I'm sure Lane will put on anything he says because it will sound like what Lane wants to hear. And to be heard.

One account, at least third-hand, is that Orest will claim he was a CIA contract employee.

Remarkable the career Lane is making for himself. His worst enemy could not make it up as bad.

Also in Section 17 the censors slipped up and did not obliterate reference to Lane as practising perversion and as sado-masochist. I'm not copying it separately.

Sincerely,