

5/16/71.

Dear Paul,

I just couldn't resist temptation. When my wife dozed off instead of making lunch, I skimmed your envelope numbered 1. Some things I ignored entirely, as Ruby, State, to get a better look at other things. I'll go over all of it with care. However, I take comfort at one thing, that apparently you, too, are beginning to fall in your memory. You got a number of items I had already provided you ~~later~~ from different files, like the Specter memos on the pix, X-rays, which I mentioned earlier today without having seen this file. I would hope that you would not find it necessary to broadcast some of this stuff for a number of reasons, one being I know nobody actually doing any real work who can make use of it now or needs it and it is part of an ongoing investigation by two of us, me and RR. I can conceive of its getting used out-of-context. I am aware that I have made some of it available in RM, but not to such like. I really think the time has come when you should consider whether or not you ought not, at least in some areas, be more security-conscious and, if you have no independent knowledge of feeling of your own, be more inclined to take the word of others on those who are mentally ill, irrational on this subject, or otherwise irresponsible. The recent CIA affair ought be persuasive. There is much of this in the Agent Oswald area that ought be kept close, too, and some of the memos are quite interesting. Fascinated that they had only the one report on the stiff meetings. I sent you copies of those I had gotten and of my hassle-correspondence with the Archives on those they had removed after I saw them, I think two.

There is one thing of enormous importance here on which I want to express contradictory requests: that you not spread it further and give me permission to use it in court if necessary. This is the neutron-act. test, one of that file I did not have. Read it again and see if you have not missed something vitally important. I will not tell Bud I have this and I will try to avoid using it in court, but in the event a situation develops where it might be essential, might accomplish a really significant purpose, I'd like to have it with me. After you have given me your interpretation, if any, I'll give you mine.

The A-O material here is fascinating in the interpretations that can be made, whether or not warranted. The omissions, semantics, compromises, deceptions, uncorrected mistakes, all taken together, and the existence of other records not included, are, I think, of quite some value. If much can easily be misinterpreted, and I fear there are those who would jump at the chance, there is also a fair amount the potential significance of which ought not be ignored. I think this has to be handled with care and compared with what we already have.

The picture of Hoover that emerges is as you said and as I have always believed and, I think, written, but there is something missing: did he actually draft these letters himself? If not, who is the sharpie who did? Justice has an undeviating policy (see F-U, final chapter), of never letting initials on outgoing copies.

Since my wife still seems to be dozing, I think I'll start skimming the one marked 2.