

Dear Sol,

1/5/92

Aside from Stone's alertness in grasping promotional opportunities there are several interesting stories relating to the records of the House assassins committee and their non-disclosure.

The importance of disclosing those records is not the possibility of finding an assassination smoking gun in them. Of this there is no likelihood for many reasons, particularly that the committee did not look for any. Also, they do not exist in official records, there never having been any real official investigation. None was intended.

Stokes may even believe genuinely in what he says but the real interest in seeing those records is to see how his committee worked or didn't work. He may have no glimmer of this, but I'm sure his chief counsel, Blakey, is well aware of it.

While Stone may have had a general interest in all withheld records, it was not until after I made it clear to him that what he said was suppressed wasn't and hadn't been that he switched his criticism. Then I heard from a friend who is one of the two who have led the effort for this disclosure that although Stokes had originally supported it, he told this friend, Kevin Walsh, that Blakey was pressuring him not to. Or, there is an inference that Blakey has something on Stokes.

It is only the records generated by the committee itself that are in issue. Those it got from executive agencies are available under FOIA and Walsh's associate, Mark Allen, had gotten many of them.

Walsh told me that he had trouble getting past Stone's palace guard but once he did and made this clear to Stone, Stone switched to demanding the committee-record disclosures.

Walsh, of course, wanted any support and did get Stone's.

Having that on every screen showing a powerful movie is powerful support.

Before this there were many letters to the Congress. Now there may well be a flood. If they are to be disclosed, processing them will be difficult if the processors are informed or dangerous to the innocent if they are not. I've seen enough of those records to know that they include rumored garbage and are in many ways inaccurate. and they do deal with people.

Thanks and best,

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