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Dear Greg,

In reading the LAPD records relating to the requests for records by HSCA I was, after all these many years, still stunned that, in Section II, Blakey et al actually subpoenaed all records relating to 182 listed people, a list of seven pages, as involved in or associated with organized crime.

As you may recall, from my first contacts with it, particularly with Sprague and Blakey, I was certain that they would see to it that the committee and through it the House would not investigate the crime itself and would, to the degree possible support the official stories about the JFK and King assassinations. It was not long after he became general counsel and staff director that I was sure that Blakey would misdirect the committee into an effort to refute all criticisms of the official story and, save for one, me, he did do this, by name.

As I once said of Mark Lane, as an investigator he could not find pubic hair in an overworked and undercleaned whorehouse at rush hour. Section II is Blakey's self exposure as even more incompetent and biased, determined to make a case where none existed and to hell with reason - sanity.

Even if there had been a basis for this kind of effort and inquiry, any justification for the considerable investment of committee time and money, which is taxpayers' money, or for the demand that the LAPD make similar investment of time, effort and public money, including all the mafia-types he could by name is sick and irrational. There was no reason even to suspect that the LAPD had any information on them, and it didn't, and even less to suspect that any information it had on them could relate to either of the assassinations.

Could the LAPD have had any information on the New Orleans District Attorney linking him with the mafia in the crimes? (And if not in the crimes is it not intended as blackmail?)

Jack Ruby's first New Orleans lawyer, Tom Howard, is linked to both the mafia and the JFK assassination? Tennis-star McLaney, whose brother had such connections in New Orleans perhaps and in gambling in Cuba? Texas businessman Gordon McLendon?

Marina Oswald is mafia-connected - and in such a way the LAPD would have had proper interest in her in connection with its law-enforcement responsibilities? The Quakers Ruth and Michael Paine?

Earl Schiebel, the auto-painting tycoon who operated coast-to-coast?

Joe Tonahill, another of Ruby's Texas lawyers?

This is sick. It is disgusting. It is another of the many reasons that egomaniacal and overly-ambitious Blakey so opposes disclosure of the HSCA's records. They condemn him for what he was and for his gross failures when he had so much power, so much more money to spend than any prior Congressional investigation, and for his ignorance, stupidity and determination to make a case where common sense said none could exist.

That his staff did not rebel against this is the staff's self-indictment.

The federal agencies understood it well and thus they played games with him and his requests. Did you know that the FBI intended, if it had to give him anything at all, to limit him to only part of what I'd forced it to give to me and was in its public reading room?

If they had intended any serious investigation, as clearly they didn't, how in the world could they have found time for it with so much misdirected effort as this is?

Thanks, Harold Weisberg

Harold