

2/17/70

Dear Lou,

Thanks for the three tape transcripts that just arrived. Perfect time. I have to take my wife someplace tonight and wait at least an hour for her, which will give me a chance to go over them carefully. A glance at one is familiar. I phoned Art because I had asked him to check out a letter to me, where there might have been some prospect of developing information of the sort your office then seemed interested in.

On my last trip to the Archives, in the course of looking for something else (I promise to blow your mind with it if, as I hope, we are again face to face), I found something I think you should know about. I may not have written you or Moo. You know of my collateral interests, because I have asked for the NOPD Intelligence reports the existence of which I have established.

There were investigations of Oswald and his possible associates long before the assassination and in New Orleans. I have had copies of a long report by deBrusys for some time. I have now located three others and should soon have copies of the pages I found of interest. At least one was by Kaack, who seems to have been the Oswald expert for at least a while.

One of the interesting things is that in some ways these cast Oswald in a somewhat different role and I would be willing to argue that, to that extent, they are truthful and accurate.

What I believe is that these reports were withheld by the FBI and I did not find them in any FBI file. I got them in files from another agency, in which they were. I am checking to see if they were in FBI files without my noting or recalling it. If they were withheld by the FBI, by whatever means, or hidden by the Commission staff, I think they automatically assume different and greater significance and I would suggest this could make them possibly pertinent in your current interests.

Lately, when I've had a few spare moments, I've returned to other old interests of which you know something might turn up that could be of present interest to you. In the course of it I have obtained a few reports I did not have earlier and have gone over, to file properly, some of my own memos. One of the exceptional things I recall from no other case is that Hoover recommended to the Commission that it call Pena (O) as a witness and put him under oath, alleging what is false, that he would not cooperate. The truth is that they were giving him so rough a time he got his lawyer and went to the bureau office and said ask what you want, I'll answer, but stop hassling me, stop hurting my business, by the endless harassment and conspicuous presence of agents. I have never found any FBI report of this but he got it into his testimony. We know he and Ferrie were friends, that Ferrie went to the Cuban meetings he attended (again I remind you of the IU investigation of Ferrie's Cuban activities), that Ferrie took his boys to the Habana, etc. This might lead to a connection. I stay in touch with Orestes. He sometimes sends me clipping from the papers and has invited me down "before it is too late". If, at any time, you know and feel you can tell me what was done to turn him off and by whom, it could be helpful. I know Mark went there and got thrown out, that Box and Hall also went there. When he got mad he admitted he had held out on me. Whether it is understood there or not, he has been very helpful, has opened

new horizons, new areas. I cannot assure you that these will lead to what is pertinent to your present limited interests, but as I would see them were I in your position, I would regard this as possible. I do not recommend that you see him, and I think it might not be the best thing to do, unless there were some special occasion. Among the reasons is that none of you knows what I learned from him, so much of which is not in your files simply because it couldn't be. However, if the Thornley case is first heard, and if it takes the shape "oo anticipates, I think it possible I may then be in N.O. and that this would provide the opportunity to resume this and see where it goes, what it can produce.

Meanwhile, I am sending him a copy of everything I get relating to or referring to him. I think it is clear enough so he can see who was leaning on him and possibly for him to identify who was stooping, making his trouble (and in some cases trying to prevent it with truthfulness). But, as Ferrie was the object of much FBI attention, it now is also clear that Orestes was, the hole effort directed at discrediting him and, if possible, making trouble for him.

There are other ways in which I can pursue Ferrie's connections and I am taking them. I'll have this done before Moe gets here, if he does come, as he indicated he would.

I hope you, personally, had a chance to read what I sent on Albe and the FBI fingerprinting of magazines they selected from his place, on the alleged search for his prints, when they knew he could not have touched those magazines. It may mean to you, as an investigator, what it might not suggest to a lawyer, whose mind is trained to focus in other directions.

Many thanks for what you sent. Best regards to everyone,

Sincerely,