

Other HWS file under Dallas - Attica

9/14/71

Dear Flo,

I fear that the pattern with which I am only too familiar may be repeated in some ways at Attica because at Attica it is possible for something to be done. That must be prevented, as those responsible see it, and they are in control of the evidence. Therefore, I think some things should be done immediately, if in no other way by the filing of a civil suit, perhaps an injunction, but who am I to tell a lawyer how? Let me instead talk about why.

Each corpse has a fine chance of having the cause of death still in it at the time of the autopsy. With shotgun pellets it is almost certain. With Pistols it is likely. With rifles less so, not impossible, but if under the existing circumstances the bullets did not remain in the bodies, they almost certainly are on the grounds. Now each bullet can, except with extreme deformation, be traced to a specific weapon to the exclusion of all others. With defemation it can still be traced to other bullets, to the batch of an identifiable manufacturers runs in the factory, and fairly well to each other. Each cop does not buy his own and the state doesn't get them at the local Minuteman gunshop, by the piece. They buy big batches, and they generally are packed as they come off the line.

I am less familiar with the possibilities of tracing buckshot, but much the same principles apply to the tracing through manufacture, etc.

Now as each goes through the clothing it leave an invisible calling card, minute and invisible traces of its surface that touches the clothes. Some bullets are jacketed with copper alloys, for example. Although they have lead cores, they'll leave copper traces on the clothes. Thus in the case of each victim the clothing can be important evidence, to show what killed him if the bullet does not remain. In turn this means two things: whether it was in any way possible for any prisoner to have caused the death and whether public authority did.

There are a number of well-known (in the trade) tests by which these things are done. The chances are that the State police may be equipped to do them. There is also the chance they will ring in the memory hole in Washington, the FBI.

From what I saw on TV tonight, the forensic pathologist is a good man in his business and in his conscience. I therefore assume that in each case among the things he likely did is X-ray each corpse, do all the prescribed things in the autopsy, and retrieve ever piece of metal, each glowing like a fluorescent loght in X-rays. He will have each piece, each pellet or buller, identified with the corpse from which he took it and he has identified each of those by taking prints. So, in each and every case the prospects are good that with the police not making it impossible it will be an easy matter to determine who killed which of the dead. There are a number of (I think) important reasons for doing this. One is to prevent the whitewash that all the verbal garbage and propaganda the State, from Rocky down, poured out to blame the prisoners for the massacre. Another is in case any of the survivors of the dead or the injured want to file suits, as I would hope they would. This was a mass acre and it can be proven - if the evidence is not destroyed or "mislaid", as so much is!

At this point I decided to phone you because we have no outgoing mail before late tomorrow night. If I think of anything we did not discuss, I'll make a note of it. But please believe me, this is the most important mistake the baddies have made in a long time and if everything even remotely possible to establish truth-very publicly- is not tried it may be a very bad mistake. This offers op ortunities undreamed of in xposing more than bad treatment and mere repression. And the whites are also the victims. That, too, offers opportunities in a racist society. Conversely, if something is not done, immediately and welll, things are going to get much, much worse.

In haste,