

Dear Jim, 1996-Section 3333

3/16/77

This is a St. Louis Section. Except as commentary on the FBI and some little content on leaning on the Rays it is terrible junk.

Even with the presumption of Ray guilt it is difficult imagining that a sophisticated police agency would go in for all this guff.

Even assuming close to desperation in the quest for Ray it is hard to explain all these time-wasters away are mere need to check all leads ~~no~~ matter how unpromising them might seem to be.

On the other hand, what else was there for St. Louis to do?

The tailing of the Rays is not really reprehensible. It is normal under the circumstances.

The pressures on the Peppers also is normal, although it should not be.

I tell you these things because I believe you thought a St. Louis volume would be promising on the Rays.

There is something about Hoover you may not know. If he did not invest government statistics he was the pre-eminent master of them.

They are the basis of all his budget presentations, all his committee appearances.

In every one he could state to within second the hours of overtime out in by the entire FBI the previous year. The statistics were phoned in advance but who could prove it - or dare try?

The King investigation, you will find, has its ultimate defense in statistics.

All this irrelevance is the substitute for a real investigation.

By the page - all counted in advance.

Don't be surprised if at some point you hear the actual number of man-hours recorded, the miles driven, even the sheets of paper used, outside the toilets, that is.

In my scanty notes I have a few clues. Like why investigate the death of the mother years earlier, or keep after the old man when he said he had not seen Jimmy in 17 years and when he clearly did not have full recall?

What did Jimmy's earliest school days have to do with the crime even if he pulled it?

It was a Hoover snow job. He took people off other things to build statistics and I'm sure unpart because of his own past record. But there was never a time when he could not have given LBJ the most precise and persuasive accounting.

Of everything except who killed King.