

12/28/69

Mary, Gary, Paul,

In SS627, assuming no major misrepresentation by the Secret Service, there are a number of interesting but possibly unimportant points that occurred to me last night.

As late as 12/6/63, Robert Klause was pretending he had done no more than make the negative for the "Treason" handbill (and he didn't make it himself but had it made). He was also pretending that the person for whom he had it made was unknown to him but looked much like Oswald.

Klause is a petty crook and a nobody. Why should he risk the anger of federal police by toying with them? He knew Surrey well. Why did he feel he had to shield Surrey at such potential personal cost? Or is it Walker he thought he was shielding? I am inclined to believe (it is no more than belief) that Klause and Surrey had to know of Walker's involvement in the attack on Adlai Stevenson, then quite recent. I think it is unlikely that either or both were not aware of similar plan for the President's reception, for they were discussed with Walker, who thereupon made it a point to be out of town.

This report contains the suspicion of Detective Brumley that one Earl Thornton, described as in the electrical business, may have had some kind of involvement. He is presented as a Klansman, etc. Mary may know, but I am interested in possibly another Thornton in Dallas, said to be in the clothing business and a man who had an 82-foot former coast-guard cutter as a private yacht on the Gulf. I have pictures of it and taken on it by a former employee. Can you help me with the Thorntons?

Again, is it possible Klause knew the relationship Penn says existed between Hosty and Surrey (is there confirmation of this bridge-playing friendship?) and figured that was protection? Klause has a long rap sheet, mostly stolen cars, federal offense, and I find it hard to believe he would toy with the federals who could so easily hurt him, unless he is what he seems not to be, a great fool.

This report also drags in Jimmy George Robinson, local NSRP organizer, on the unconfirmed suspicion he had stacks of the Minutemen anti-Khrushchev leaflet (unconfirmed). Two things: why should there have been all this interest in an anti-Khrushchev leaflet, except as a parallel to the Anti-JFK one (that disappeared without ending interest in the anti-K) and no reference to what has become the strange Fields-NSRP boast, that Robinson was the first man picked up after the assassination? Now it is obvious that if the federals really wanted to know all about that anti-K leaflet, it would have taken them less than a week. They could have done much better with the anti-JFK one, given the desire. They could have pinpointed the local source of paper, for example, in no time at all. And for some reason not at all clear, Bill Decker seems to have been interested enough to learn fine details but not interested enough to seek confirmation. Also, Brumley and SS Agent Unum Brady worked on this together. With all the things connect with the assassination to be checked in early December?

There is much of this that doesn't make sense. Have you any knowledge or suggestions?...One of my conservative Dallas friends who is in a position to judge evaluates Brumley as "a very capable investigator". This is a professional opinion. He says there is overlapping membership between the Klan and NSRP (also "Minutemen"), esp. in Oak Cliff's area, where the Klan is active....And, if you have any ideas, why was Klause important enough to have been dragged before the full Commission in DC, flown up in such haste he hadn't a change of clothes, by the SS?

Sincerely,