

12/25/75

Dear Bruce Kurek,

Your letter postmarked the 19th came yesterday, as I recall. I'm much limited in what I can do by the lingering phlebitis.

The checking on Rubenstein is impressive, but where does it get or leave us?

Unlike most others I've had experience in the Congress, in investigation and in preparing evidence. At best this is peripheral. It still gives no meaning to anything except some of the less important FBI deceptions and withholdings.

While I am all for all leads being checked out, I have my own scale of priorities and values. I also have my own Member and staff pipelines into the Church committee, staff and others. All the readings I get to now indicate headline seeking, not excessively, and no substantial work. The chasing of the least likely and the least significant leads, often bad ones. I hear from some of those interviewed, before and after.

None of us makes perfect or completely defensible analyses. Mine is that on all aspects of its assignment this committee will fall far short. It began by going for the Ford/executive-branch diversionary bait. It has done very little about domestic intelligence, its main function. I've been around long enough to get and interpret readings. I know things I have to keep in confidence. So, unless you will be satisfied with still another essentially meaningless thing, be prepared to be disappointed. This change. I'm doing my part in the effort. I'm not predicting success.

What you, coming from Sprague/Garrison, attribute to the so-called tramp pictures still has no meaning. Why should a copy not have a hearing aid, a communications system whether or not identical to others, even a radio to keep up with news developments. What purpose could or did it all serve two hours after the assassination?

I suspect the sophistication of the counter-operations is lost upon you. Nothing personal. Merely that there is no reason I have for you to know how government works. The executive agencies are in a bad position. They have and use enormous means and to this minute have blunted or foiled everything alleged, none of which is in any way basic. As of now I have no reason to believe that they intend to get the the basic and it is not from lack of knowledge of it. All the trivia is playing into their hands, even when as is rarely the case it is accurate. It meanwhile is giving the major media time to put new whitewashes together. I am making what efforts I can. Some of these people have known me for 20 years. When I had to go to the doctor one high up drove me. When I had to go to the hospital another high up came all the way out here to take me there just to be able to talk to me. He got up early to do it and had me cancel my other arrangements. I had a private room so they could confer in private. This enable the establishing of something much more significant on the FBI by one with whom I worked. They have two months in which to make basic decisions not yet made. In all the time they've had I know of nothing significant any committee has added to what I've had or had appeared. They did lay a couple of eggs, blunting or ruining what could have had meaning.

I take this time before Xmas breakfast in appreciation of your efforts and sincerity and out of thanks for what you've sent, that I will read.

Nobody will be any happier if any of these operations comes to an important end. However, there remains the higher prospect of disillusionment. One of the ways in which these committees were helped in avoiding doing what they should have done was by the inundation of the peripheria on which they spent all their time and thus also had an excuse for statistics like in the Report, all the manhours, all the leads checked, etc.

Best regards and thanks,

Harold Weisberg
Rt 12, Old Receiver Rd
Frederick, Maryland
21701

734 Crownet Rd
Shirley Hill
60025

Dear Mr Weisberg:

1st: enclosed is a money order for the amount of your Frame-Up book; will you please dispatch a copy to:

Richard Jackson
3015 W 89 Terrace
Leawood, Kansas
66206

At this time, I will not have to worry about it's being labeled "do not open" You might enclose a flyer about your other books.

As for "Jack Rubenstein" being a common name amongst Jewish people; eg. in 1935, only one is listed in a Chicago telephone directory. In 1950, there is one "JL.", and three "Jack"s. Information for approximately twenty-five years indicates that this was not a very common name in a large city like Chicago. So as to preclude error, however, I did explain to the receiver of the information that there indeed, could be a coincidence of names Rubenstein and that it deserved to be investigated. So, I don't concur with you in believing that such information is counterproductive. It does at least this: gets those senators thinking in uncomfortable and unconventional modes. It surely wasn't forced upon them; indeed, after giving enough ~~info~~ key information to the ranking minority member of the Joint Operations Comm., I was pleased to receive a note from him saying that he would share all that I have sent with other members of the committee and sub-committees (the friends and trustworthy ones, that is.) He saw some sense to yours and others' writing.

As for the "official" communication regarding Nixon's office and J.L.R., the holder of it also suspects it of being a plant and a fake.

Even if it were genuine, I would hesitate to pass it on to the Senate for the reason that it could ^{engender} ~~produce~~ a depressive feeling and prejudice interest in getting into another "can of worms" investigation.

Further, even if the HUAC Jack Rubenstein is another person, it shows the FBI up for not giving this information to the Warren Comm; for sure, it was aware of him as was HUAC. That in itself is very important.

If there is something you did not include in publishing, for one reason or another, and you wish it to be noticed, I have a pipeline past staff people - right to Percy's and Church's own desks. It is a good idea that this ~~is not~~ does not "get around". Things are being studied quietly at homes and in closed offices devoid of harassing journalists (newspaper people & TV people)

If anyone should call you in the future, just be cooperative and your usual friendly self. A caution, though (if you please): moderate strong passions and be quietly logical. It is enough that these senators should have new found doubts and subsequent upset emotions themselves.

Conversational gossip: I know what your expressed attitude toward the "Tramps" photos is, but are you aware that there is one little publicized, one where a police officer is wearing an earphone in his right side ear with a wire running into his shirt ~~or~~ collar - just like a typical SS person does? (not to make any allegations about the SS)? What he was wearing was non-standard equipment, at least; if you get around in a large city frequently, you'll know this.
Some enclosed articles:

Very truly yours,
Bruce Kitch