

Dear Gary,

3/27/82

My suit for the field office records has reached a critical point, one I happened to have anticipated and prepared for by offering a compromise settlement that the DJ rejected out of hand. Thursday the judge, although a virtual FBI rubber-stamp, also got hot about it and ordered the government and my lawyer, Jim Mesar, to go into a huddle and come up with a settlement. Naturally, the FBI and lawyers wanted anything else and would agree to nothing. Jim then told the judge what I had offered as a full settlement and he got interested. But he also wants to rush this because the case is in its fourth year. So he told us to submit the offer in writing within 10 days. I've just finished a draft but I write before reading and correcting it.

Two of the things the appeals office told the FBI to provide, and it hasn't provided except as I've informed you in the past, is copies of all pictures and the records on the critics.

I've caught it in its trickery. It does not say that there are no Dallas or New Orleans pictures and tapes. Instead it says that Dallas files "contain" none. Of course not, they were shipped to FBIHQ, as I know! And instead of searching under the names of the critics, it searched only such things as "Warren Commission critics," for which it had no files.

So I write for several purposes.

I want all the pix and on this I've not offered any compromises. Do you and/or Mary or others know what the Dallas office had? I can then be sure we get them disclosed.

If whatever is going to be disclosed about the Ronson film comes out so that can be very helpful. I gather that the enhancement is proceeding and is not in accord with the official mythology. Is there anything you can tell me about this so I can be in a position to use if it need be? If you tell me anything that has to be confidential, be sure to make that clear.

Assuming that I get these pix, do you people down there want copies? It will cost less and be clearer if I pay for an extra set when the initial processing is done. I don't know if I'll be able to pick and chose. If this is not done, if anyone wants anything it will have to be made from what I get, which will not be easy here and will cost much more.

Do you and Mary want me to try for the records on your? Earl? Do you want them to assert a privacy claim for any info? Bear in mind that they may put copies in the FBI reading room.

The appeals office directed disclosure of the critics' records several years ago but the FBI stonewalled.

Unless there is something genuinely defamatory that you(pl) want withheld it is better to waive privacy to prevent them using that as an excuse to withhold any dirty things they did. They did do many dirty things, as I've learned. Mary knows what they've disclosed about Buck, a baseless rumor.

Our proposal is that we will limit "critics" to a list we provide.

I find myself wondering why they risk getting in trouble to withhold the pix, after they were told to give them to me.

Please excuse the haste and typos but I've got to get back to what I've drafted for Jim and get it off to him. If we go out to supper tonight I may get to a box from which there is yet a Saturday pickup and maybe save a couple of days.

Best to you all,