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8/17/93

Dear John,

When I read your letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> yesterday rather late in the day for me now, it having been that kind of day, I used a highlighter to mark all of the excellent points worth further discussion. But my body took over last night and I slept! I did not get around to making up the orders or to answering another letter or responding to still another as I should have. And this will be that kind of week. Hood is awarding Lil and me honorary degrees on Sunday and dear friends start arriving Thursday night. I finally got around to getting the car cleaned and washed yesterday and it took close to four hours as I went around and waiting only to be told that they do not clean the insides any more. Except that after waiting in a Jiffy Lube line almost a half hour they said they would if I got a lube job I do not need! Don't misunderstand, the costs of accumulating all the years is well worth it! But it slows down what younger people do not experience.

Your analysis is absolutely correct. I think perhaps I can make a few suggestions that may help. And had I rushed through a response last evening I would not have thought of what came to mind while I was sitting this morning waiting for the various saps to start moving a bit. My dear friend Jerry McKnight is going to do a book on the Commission's executive sessions. I do not recall a single word in them on the basic things you mention! That is where one would expect such things to be raised and worked out! So I'll give him a copy of your letter for his thinking.

From my recollection of the Commission's records other than the CIB there is some of what you may well be interested in. I recall such things as not getting around to considering most of the witnesses called in <sup>beginning in</sup> and after July until rather late, because they began with the intention and I think expectation of <sup>the</sup> filing their report 6/64. Without the reasoning and procedures you go into. That is because, although of course they do not articulate <sup>it</sup> especially Warren and Rankin, began with the intention of covering it all up. I do not think some, like Russell in particular, had anything like that in mind.

To the best of my recollection- and it has been a long time since I read those records when I could not afford to buy copies as I would have liked to - that Rankin was the dictator. Counsels had to clear calling witnesses through him and he seems to have decided without consultation with members. (Which makes Hoover's determination that Warren not have his own man as general counsel, the norm, and having a Rankin in that role rather than the independent <sup>one</sup> Iney, Warren's preference, so significant.)

What little, and it is very little, I recall seeing about the Texas theater business was in a few KP files. There are some <sup>can</sup> things that I think I <sup>can</sup> recall. One is that it was not Julia Postal's idea that Oswald had gone into the theater without buying a ticket and there is no record I recall reflecting any search of his clothing to see if a stub was in a pocket. The explanation is that <sup>in</sup> the official account is that Johnny Calvin Brewer, who

could not have had any way of knowing, told her that. Also on that business, the FBI's analysis of the bullets shows that the hammer did not fall on the one chambered in LHO's gun.

I think if you do with the records other than the CDs what you did with the CDs that will be a fine thing for research. You say that at some point you would give all that to a school. I hope that you then think of Hood, where all I have will be and which plans to make everything available to other institutions by modern optical techniques of which I know nothing at all.

On how the Commission worked, on the most essential things on which Rankin acted alone, without any consultation with any members, I have a long transcript of a tape of a meeting Liebeler had with students who were needling him after Garrison started making those noises. It was taped for me by a bright 18-year and I'll transcribed it. Liebeler says he was in his office looking at <sup>pres. Ho</sup> ~~the~~ of his parts of the "report" on which the presses were to role at midnight when an FBI courier comes it with confirmation of the Hall, etc. visit to Odio. Liebeler then talks about his concern, that he rushed down the <sup>Hall</sup> office to Rankin's office to say, "We've got a problem." His account is that after he explained it all to Rankin, Rankin said, "Correction, Mr. Liebeler: You have a problem. And you've until midnight to handle it." Liebeler then gives his boy-in-the-dike explanation of how that basic part of the "report" is his and his alone when he could make no changes that changed the content or length of any page of made an real changes in the index. *n notes.*

All such bodies should work the way you set forth. I recall no record reflecting that the WC did that. And in and of itself that is, I think, important.

That is a truly amazing disk you got, with all those wonderful and so important historical records on it! And on a single disk!

The more I think of it the more I think it would be fine if you were to pursue that line of inquiry with all the WC records other than the CDs that are available.

I wish I'd thought to invite you to the convocation at which the degrees will be awarded.

Thanks! Sincerely,

*K. Cole*

In fact, I didn't think to invite anyone, but

there will be three professors here you may want to meet. Wrone and McKnight /you know about. The other is Ginocchio, a sociologist who knows enough about criminalistics to teach it at Wofford, Spartanburg, If you'd like to come, please do! They are all staying at the Red Horse Inn, which may be filled up by now. It is on West Patrick, or 40W, across from that Holiday Inn and the State Police Barracks. Another friend, a lawyer who is doing what he can to help the Univ. Ky complete the Senator Cooper Archive, is coming in Thursday night, also at Red Horse, Wrone and the others Friday night. We'll meet there for breakfast Saturday a.m. We were told, if you come, to be at Hood at 3:00 for the 3:30 beginning 8/22. I'm going to give them all a copy of your letter. If you'd like to come, we'd like to see you again.

*H*