

Dear Jim,

6/7/79

Today I was so determined to stretch the vessels that need stretching and ~~gotta~~ get more blood to where less now ~~gotta~~ goes voluntarily that I began mowing before the dew was gone. I kept track of time not to overdue it and picked the far side of the pond, the steep bank that is mostly weeds now. I worked up a fine sweat and in many places was able to keep a footing while getting the hand mowed even into the water below. Side benefit: washing it off. I quits when really soaking wet from free-flowing sweat and when I felt I could do more to reduce the prospects of later reaction. I had just gotten to the house, not even in it when Mike Ewing called.

Most of it was a total waste of time and I suspect it lasted well over an hour. Lil has to remind me about getting up and walking and even a second stiff bout with the mower after lunch has not reduced the swelling in the right foot and both legs. I should not get involved and sit for so long.

Howard Bray had given him or Moldes or both copies of my letter after I'd gotten word to the effect that an inferred secret of my relationship with a mafiosa was out. I did not prompt Mike on that and instead let him get through a long, pointless, irrelevant and less than sophomoric attempt at self justification. In the end when at Lil's prodding I decided to cut it off I asked him about that. He confirmed that it was Moldes but not through him but directly to AIB. At one point he confessed, without prodding that it is now inevitable that all those who conjecture a mafia involvement in the JFK assassination (and don't have anything to support their notion with) will be attributing my opposition to this theorizing to this alleged relationship. He admits that the critical community thrives on such stuff and that while he regards it as amusing and no more others, he not being a nut and most others being nutty, will be spreading it like mad. Q.E.D.

He tortured much for well over an hour before we got to this and none of it was real or factual or even responsible conjecturing. He began everything with "Don't you believe that..." and didn't stop when I call him on it, telling him that he was displaying his own pre-conceptions, trying to attribute them to me, that in no case had I agreed and that one seeking an impartial opinion never formulates any question in that manner. But the formulation never ended and he continued almost to seek absolution from himself.

No point in wasting time of that but this is prelude. He also tried to present himself as helpful, based on his experience and knowledge at the committee. He did this in terms of what I'd mentioned to Howard, about the FBI having me filed under bank robberies. He then told me that they had the entire assassination case coded that way, whatever he may have meant by coding, and that the man really in charge in Washington was Rogge, whose name he could not even pronounce. When I asked if he were the son of C. John Rogge, who was one of the World War II period Assistant AGs in charge of the Criminal Division, he did not know. I was curious. C. John is the one who leaked the fact that the FBI picked me up on bugging in those days, to a friend of his who was also a friend of mine and who introduced me to the one who was bugged.

What Ewing said is B.S but what could have prompted that stupidity might be interesting. Assuming there is any kind of basis for it I doubt it is any kind of coding but may represent a special set of the files I got under FOIA that were provided to the NSCA. Rogge was no more than one of several supervisors on the case in the Rosen or General Investigative Division, which was more in charge than any other Division except for lab work. There was even a Rosen back channel. Les Whitten visited me when I was in the hospital in 10/75 and asked my help on a document that had been leaked to the column, a different accounting of the Connally wounds. I showed Les how to establish that this was a back channel and he did it exactly and as easily as I suggested. Actual control, of course, was higher. Rosen and his peers were merely in immediate operational control. But I think we should be alert to anything that could be a basis for whatever Mike meant. Meanwhile pertinent is a huge I gave Howard R. of the FBI chain of command and part of my appeal based on no law enforcement purpose. While it appears that I may have intended this for Paul I please check and see if it was intended for you. If you have it please return and I'll send to Paul. Hastily,