

Murret, Dorothy

10/25/76

Dear Howard,

This is for your information and an Agent Oswald note for me.

The 1975 releases, my copies of which have not yet come, contain some new Paine and Murret materials that are interesting, provocative.

I am particularly interested in their relevance to what has interested me from the first, as you may recall from Whitewash, the dreams of the 16-year-old Oswald. I have a Philbrick chapter in Agent Oswald that a new one will now have to follow, based on this previously withheld stuff, raising questions about why withheld when there is no basis under the Act.

On the Paines I'd always wondered how, given the paranoia of the era, Michael Paine could hold a classified job at Bell Helicopter with a Trotskyite father. Now it turns out that there is the same on Ruth's sister Dorothy and others in the family. There is what can be taken as indication of a federal informant in the family in L.A. There appears to have been an FBI black bag job on the Paines, resulting in the filching of her telephone list. The masking leaves not doubt it was Paine's place that was burgled. There also appears to have been Paine lying about long-distance calls. There is, in short, reasonable reason to believe there is a family history of spooking on both sides, combined with political radicalism.

When I get this I'll have to let Annie, who burns for her because of all her bad-mouthing of him and her immediate notifying of the FBI when he was working on a story, go over it all.

Dorothy Murret's travels always interested me. They seemed to be more than a New Orleans schoolteacher could afford and they seemed to concentrate in the far-east. Now it turns out that she had a connection with Harold Isaacs of MIT's school that was CIA-connected. I do not recall the connection in which I link the Isaacs name with Oswald, but it exists in my mind. If you think of it remind me.

Here I do not have in mind the Hoover 5/19/64 to Rankin on Murret, Marilyn Dorothea. In it, without further explanation, Hoover refers to Harold Robert Isaacs on the Center for International Studies at MIT. He is mentioned in one of the two enclosures and Hoover says a further memo is being provided on him.

I was never able to find the time or a legitimate basis for carrying any Murret investigations on when I was in N.O. It seems unreasonable to try to tackle her or them in the blind. Garrison had the same suspicions but never accomplished anything more than idle talk and theorizing. (The same for the CIA linkage with the Reily Coffee Co.) However, the links of Oswald to spooks through his family, if not employment, are provocative. I think they'll be more than that when I put it together with what else I have.

Here another Paine discrepancy and the FBI Philadelphia reports make the combination more provocative. Ruth Paine's story is that she met the Oswalds at a party. These reports quote her as having told a Philadelphia friend that she met the Oswalds through a pen-pal program.

Assuming the accuracy of these FBI reports is dangerous. But so is ignoring them and their implications.

There is more in these records about the CIA's supposed man in Dallas, Moore.

If I haven't told you I've established the beginnings of new files on these new releases, separate files for FBI and CIA. My FOIA requests of the CIA include everything. There are many thousands of pages. The CIA was more cunning. It spent an enormous amount of time in disinformational and unjustified masking and combined this with a torrent of paper. It thus has released while obfuscating, as the minimal press attention shows. Without having time to read them I've found what was missed. There must be much I have not spotted. This is why I'm battling them for an inventory now, not in the future. Hastily,