

(cc: Jim L.)

April 3, 1974

Dear Harold,

I have your notes of 3/26 and 3/31.

I'm glad that you can take care of the Archives Project. You mentioned that the crew has my 3/6 x to Jim. In that letter I mentioned the similar request I made in my 2/20 to Jim. That effort can probably be taken care of at the same time. ~~XXXXX~~ It was for a memo, 3 pp., April 16, from Griffin to Slawson, dealing with an interview with Mrs. C. L. Connell. There were two copies in the Odio name file; the first was not very legible; the second was better. I think I flagged it but did not get it, so it may have been removed; perhaps they removed only the second copy, but I doubt it. (Note: there are 2 other memos of the same date, also Griffin to Slawson, also withheld, which I have; I think I sent them to you as well as Jim already.)

I mailed you a copy of the Incoming Mail Log, Entry 3, on March 30, 3rd class. Since my only copy which has the annotations I want to send you is already reduced (2-on-1), your copy is 2-on-1 also, but it is rather clear and I trust it will be okay. I should mention that many of the descriptions in the log are misleading; also, some of those letters haven't been found in the proper files. If you make ~~u~~ up a list of letters you want, let me know before you ask at the Archives and I will tell you if I have already gotten or asked for them.

Here are a dozen of my little address labels, for your convenience.

Your 3/26 discussed the changes in the Odio testimony. The copy in the Odio name file has the changes marked by hand; it was the ribbon copy; and had Liebeler's "okay to print" on it. I don't think it is worth it to me to get the ~~entire~~ entire transcript (about 142 pages), or even all the ~~pages~~ pages with changes, although I do agree that the changes are interesting. You mentioned that you knew about Alentado-Leopoldo. He is interviewed at CD 1546.185, also mentioned on p. 210 of the same CD.

In your 3/31, you asked about the alleged changes in the Craig transcript. The most detailed report on this which I have seen ~~is~~ is in "Forgive my Grief ~~XXXX~~ III", pp. 29-35.

Re projects for ~~me~~ people to do at the Archives: one large project would be to go ~~o~~ over the physical evidence, ~~me~~ especially Oswald's possessions, and make a detailed list with good descriptions. I don't think any critic (or any WC people with critical attitudes) ever did this. It would be a lot of work. However, from the ~~things~~ things I have run across, I know there is lots ~~of~~ of "new" information in that material. (I recall that Bob Smith did a good job on describing and ~~studying~~ studying just a few of the items.) For example, purely by chance I found a disc recording of ~~Oswald's~~ Oswald's N.O. radio show which the FBI had before the assassination (#D-215, I think). This project would be done best, of course, if it involved someone with a real knowledge of Russian.

I hear a rumor that the Skolnick crazies would like access to the CTIA files. I would dislike this almost as much as you. There are a number of my things in there that were sent on a confidential basis (before I started to send things to Jim and Bob personally.)

I also hear that Bob is no longer in D.C. Really?

Best,
Paul
PLH

Dear Paul (JL),

3/26/74

Even for me this is a very hasty response to your mailing of the 23rd. Please be particularly alert to anything that may not seem to make sense because it is a day of exceptional and conflicting emotions on which I am more than usually pressed for time.

In a couple of hours I make a college appearance that can be important for me. And I am quite late getting home from town because it is the day I have long awaited, collecting the agreed settlement from the government for the damages done us by military helicopters and that made possible paying off my indebtedness to the bank (only).

For one single flashing, fleeting moment it was like a pendant drop of dew glistening in the early morning sun as it hung over a melodious brook. And then there was the reality, all the blood and pain, all the evil and ugliness. Even this Shylockian delay in sending the check, which cost us several hundred dollars in interest. Those bastards were determined to extort another pound of flesh.

Lil and I were singularly not euphoric. I had to make a trip to her office because these monsters couldn't even spell "Lillian" correctly and had to involve her in the whole schmear in order to deposit the check.

So, during the various waiting periods I read the mail. There is some to which I must attend before leaving for the college so I can mail it today. Among these is your mailing. Of it I address only part now because of a feeling that I should take some up promptly.

First, please you and Jim leave the secret agent stuff to me. Because I think I have one with the idea, let me call it disguise. I will keep you both informed, but I think this person is dependable and would like to undertake your mission Discretion.

I may know by the time I see Jim in two days. It is a person who cannot yet be connected with any of us. Not only a beautiful disguise but a natural cover. All also puns.

Now, on the changes. You should remember but apparently do not that Liebeler has a history of this. Do you not remember that there came a time when he became a drinker? It may be connected. Do you recall that where I blew much on the Crane Show, I kept after him on one thing that no lawyer can explain away, his corrupting of evidence? I might have done much better if I'd had any sleep but I did give him no respite on this and I knew he would thereafter have trouble with his peers. It also marked the end of his book.

Thereafter, working on W.O. leads, I found other and substantive alterations he made in transcripts plus his notes on Kelley's Machann (correct spelling) report.

So, what you have is substantial and I can give meaning to a couple of the changes off the top of the head. (A young fellow named Barry was to have done this for me in 1967!)

Alentado is a real people, in Dallas, and with one of the Cuban groups. I'd rather not identify than err. I think he was an accountant. He figures in several of my interviews. Any elimination of a real name has to be significant, especially when it gets into the "Leopold" stuff.

This is also true of the shift from "junta" to "HURE." As I recall, JURE was for the Cubans a left group. the junta would seem to refer to the right-wing leadership in Miami, remnant of the Bay of Pigs. Recall that CIA support of the CRC, which I take to be the junta, continued through April of 1963. Liebeler knew and hid this. I have him on tape on it.

The Hall-Howard types could not be sympathetic to JURE. They were the political friends of the CRS types. Liebeler also knew and tried to hide the LHO-CRC link, as did the FBI.

I will go over the rest with care as soon as I can.

I recall your saying that the copying at half-page would cost \$. That is too small for my eyes, particularly if the copy is unclear. If you can trust me, I'd like a set actual size. I should be able to send you a check soon. We are due to get another and small sum due us within a short while.

I am unclear on what transcript you got. If you got other than the set that was sent to the GPO for typesetting you got the wrong one and I would urge getting 100% of that of Odio. It is one of the more promising blind ways of buying xeroxes. Or perhaps it would be better if JL did and we made copies here. You and he decide.

March 23, 1974

Dear Harold,

Thanks for your mailings of 2/26 and 3/21. Enclosed is my letter of March 6 to Lesar, which you have already seen. I do think it is worthwhile to get this withheld document from the Archives; it should be easy, if done by someone who won't ~~xx~~ make the Archives suspicious enough to rescreen everything they see, who won't have Marion W Johnson staring over his shoulder, and who is familiar ~~xx~~ enough with Archives procedures to get out with at least a transcription of the ~~xxxx~~ document. The second withheld document ~~xx~~ was described in my letter of 2/20 to Jim; I may not have sent you a copy. It is an interview of Mrs. Connell about Odio. I understand that you ~~xx~~ and Jim are very busy, and there is no real rush on these, but when it is done it should be done right.

Also enclosed are my notes on changes made in the Odio deposition before it was printed. For your Odio file.

I have finished annotating my copy of the Incoming Mail Log, Inventory Entry 3. I could make you a copy (2-on-1 only) (for the annotations) for about \$4. At this price I think it would be a worthwhile research tool. A lot of the letters are not well described, and impossible to find, but you might find some leads. Let me know if you want a copy. Since I ~~xxxx~~ haven't heard from Bob or the CTIA for months, I am not writing to offer them a copy, but you can mention this to Bob or Jim ~~xx~~ if you think of it.

As you requested, I checked the Berkeley Public Library, which has quite a few city directories; they have none for Mexico ~~xx~~ City. The U.C. library has no city directories at all, I think. Both would have Mexico City phone books. I recall that the Library of Congress has quite a good collection of city ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ directories, and the publisher, who I think is in D.C., has a collection available.

Re my request to the FBI for the possibly intercepted "L.H." letter to the Militant: my request was denied in a way that suggests that some relevant records do exist. I have appealed and will let you know what ~~xxxxxx~~ happens.

Thanks for having Jim send me the legal papers, and the Cointelpro documents. This is useful stuff. I may have seen Jim on the NBC story on the Ray hearing - I'm not sure - but there was not a word in the S.F. newspaper.

Your 3/10 to me mentions my reference to "sheets you say we should all have. If I do not have them I would like to." I can't tell what you are referring to, so unless you want to ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ recheck the correspondence, it ~~xx~~ will have to pass.

Your 3/21: as far as I can tell, the ~~xxxx~~ person ~~xxx~~ you describe (in N.Y?) is nobody I know or know of. I don't think I have any research to be done in N.Y. Thanks anyhow.

You mentioned (3/21/74 ltr) Raznikov. I have the article he published out here, but I have never heard of him; ~~xxxx~~ Peter Scott recalled the name but does not know him. Don Freed is on the lecture circuit here again; he has ~~xxx~~ discovered CD 631 (in the R73 file).

Sincerely,

Paul
PLH

HW

March 6, 1974

Good morning, Jim.

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is (once again) to obtain a withheld document from the National Archives, by means of a purely legal but discreet operation.

Go ~~xxxx~~ to the National Archives and ask for Boxes 5 through 9 of Entry 44, the office files of Staff members. In Box ~~xxxxxx~~, you should find (at the ~~end~~ ^{Box 7 (seven)} end of the box) a folder marked ~~xxxxxxx~~ "Interoffice Memoranda" and attributable to Mr. Burt W. Griffin of the Warren Commission staff.

In this folder, you should find a letter from J. Lee Rankin (probably drafted by Griffin or Hubert) to J. Edgar Hoover, dated March 26, 1964, and relating to information in the FBI's possession about certain ~~xxxxxx~~ Cuba-oriented ~~xxxxxxx~~ groups, including the FECC.

This letter is specifically required by Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of the national defense ~~or~~ foreign policy (5 U.S.C. 552(b)(1)) because it relates to internal security matters. (Archives to Hoch, 11/10/71, item 8) Furthermore, it is exempt from disclosure as an ~~xxx~~ inter-agency letter. (5/3/72 letter).

According to an unimpeachable source, this letter looks routine enough, on the basis of a hasty scan of this file. Nonetheless, it will be useful in our continuing struggle against the forces of suppression and other bad things.

You should take appropriate procedures to avoid exposure of this mission. Do not ask for Box 7 alone, or the Archives might re-screen it. If anyone is looking over your shoulder while you are carrying out this mission, you should be prepared to transcribe this letter on tape. Ordinarily, it should be possible to have a copy made at the main desk in the Archives reading room, while you wait, by personnel who don't care what they are copying. This copy of the letter does not bear any ~~xxxxxxx~~ classification stamp. However, under no circumstances should it be flagged for later copying.

This ~~xxxx~~ project will be known by the code name Executive Inaction. ~~p~~ Appropriate funds will be made available. Use great discretion if you have to assign this project to any of your co-workers, ~~xx~~ especially those known to be on the Archives' enemies list. It would probably be best that you not call the Archives in ~~xxx~~ advance; all of Entry 44 has already been screened.

Upon ~~xxxxxx~~ processing in a Uher recorder for 18½ minutes, this message will ~~xxx~~ self-destruct. Good luck,

A. J. Hidell
Acme Plumbers, Inc.

Hi Jim -

It's me now. Just want to thank you for sending me the gov't response to the interrogatories, etc. Harold has sent me a letter with some more information. I know you are very busy, but perhaps getting a Secret document would be nice diversion. (Also, the withheld memo with my letter of 2/20, of course.)

In the Archives letter of 2/15/74, for several withheld items, they did not mention the inv. files exemption. The inter-intra-agency one was used a lot. Has something happened to make the latter suddenly good for them to use? My recollection, probably from something you sent me, was that it was restricted to policy matters, preliminary opinions, things like that. I'm just mentioning this for your information.

keep in touch!

cc: ~~xxxx~~

Paul
PLH