

8/25/75

Mr. Rod Gibson
The National Enquirer
600 South East Coast Ave.,
Lantana, Fla. 33462

Dear Rod, and Bill,

If my head did not seem screwed on when you called earlier this evening, well, it was both loose and elsewhere. I'm behind schedule on Post Mortem and very tired. Since you were here I've put in days up to 25 hours and then was at it again with less than three hours sleep. So, while I did the chapter today about which I wrote Bill yesterday, I'm so tired I've had to give up any exercise temporarily.

I'm using the money Bill promised me for help. Howard Roffman is coming tomorrow. You know in confidence the special deadline I face, not only in printing but in what I must have ready not much after Labor Day. My mother, who is in her 80s, is ailing. Lil alone went to see her. I had just returned from taking Lil to the bus so my mind was on other things. In short I'm pressed and it is influencing my recollection. I'm sorry but I'll get just about all if not all to you as soon as possible.

I have found several Kelley letters but the one in which you were especially interested is missing. It frightened me until I could pull myself together. Then it all came back. I'll send the letters I've found and if you want them I'll take time to dig out of a file at least 4 inches thick the letters to which I found summaries in an index to this enormous government correspondence Roffman made before he entered law school.

The letters convey some of what you have and are interested in and set the date of the meeting at which we negotiated. I'd prefer that you use these only for substantiation because I'm now in new negotiations for other withheld material I'd like to get without turning him/them off.

I began putting pressure on in 1966. As a result there were some transfers by the Secret Service. The Archives conned me as I believe the summaries I will be quoting show. I'll be phoning you in the morning to speed it up, but this will also get into the mail then. They told me these papers including nothing I did not already have. I explained the significance tonight: Burkley's signature and verification and approval.

You will find that he, personally, dated the papers in his "accepted and approved" notations.

The papers of which I let you have copies that are not covered by the letter I'll be enclosing were transferred earlier, when I was applying pressure and at a time I was getting much electronic-media attention. What the cunning Archives cats did besides deceiving me was to misfile them. My recollection is that to lose them they put them with the copy that went to the Government Printing Office. I do have records on this but what time getting them would take. If necessary I'll take the time.

They did the same thing with the RFK autopsy authorization, put it in the wrong file. I got it by accident. I can show you scads of letters in which they alleged not to have it.

I'm not starting at the beginning of this large case index but with your interest. I'm be quoting Howard's summary of the Archives' letters to me only.

9/14/67 - Covering letter on memos relating to parts of the protocol [autopsy report to you] not in WC's relevant files.

10/9/76 - The original of the autopsy papers in CE 397 have been received from

the SS (Secret Service). Followed by "Papers received from SS do not include not shown in printed version of CE 397." (This lie is what threw me. I ought never, ever trust any of them?) Date 10/13/67, four days and before I could go in.

Skipping some entries in which I kept pushing them they told me 11/14/68. They then described the material you have, only not completely. 7/29/69 they assured me "No additional autopsy material available." 8/13/69 they told me "you have been furnished with all papers re autopsy that were transferred to A by SS." I started a Dept. Justice push and 10/31/69 they wrote, again Howard's summary, "Have not received instructions from DJ or other agency to make any records of WC available since you heard from DJ.

But then on 11/12/67 Rhoads [Archivist] to Kelley [Secret Service] on the stuff sent for me, to be enclosed. Threat, death certificate Original and six pink copies, receipt for missile- these you have- and the original of a letter you did not want. They then (11/18/69 sent me copies Kelley's letter and attachments. They add "neither the originals or copies of the other documents are known to be in the records of the W.C. This includes documents you've requested and haven't received."

1/22/70 "A has no additional info re Letter on confidential nature of events [threat of court martial to us] except the info in the covering letter from SS. You have copy of that.

At some point in here I discovered the originals with Burkley's signature misfiled in the file of copy that went to the Printing Office, the one place nobody would ever expect. That, not the covering letter I recalled, which deals with the other documents, is the source of those papers. Hence unless Howard did not record it I have no covering letter on that. Nonetheless, the cited records do show the transfer while I was pressing to the Archives 10/9/76 - to be memory holed until I got them.

This particular file included the holograph, the certifications, the body chart, etc- the papers with Burkley's handwritten notes and signature.

The memo of transfer was given to me by the Secret Service and intercepted and refused me by the Archives until I was ready to file suit this year. I have the records.

Separate from how I got these papers is your interest in timing and possession. It does not depend on Burkley's own signature and dating. You have Admiral Galloway's letters saying that he is transmitting the last copy, that the Navy then retained not a scrap of JFK autopsy paper, and the Bouck receipt that was part of my beginning point. All within a day or two.

There is too much for either of us to recall in Post Mortem. However, in it I have my authorities for saying that Humes made hand-delivery to Burkley. Lil will be back Friday. Any time beginning then, with her records, she can pinpoint this for us. But it really is true. Happened something like 7 p.m. 11/24/68, as soon as protocol was typed. Thus Burkley used that date, not the next day, as he could have had it been Galloway's forwarded last copy.

On the proof that the men the FBI listed as present were all military, Howard's mind is 50 years younger and despite finals ending today fresher. If he can't recall where I have my proof I'll just have to make a tedious check for you. However, there is a military directory, I think in Falls Church, and you can do it easily and fast by phone. Except for the two generals, Army and Air, all were Navy. I have always wondered why the FBI omitted the name of the Surgeon General of the Navy, as you ~~was~~ saw in Post Mortem, with my source, Finck under oath.

I think this temporarily covers your requests. I'll phone in the a.m. because that will give you info before you can get this record of dates.

Thanks and best to you both,