

3/14/70

Dear Harold,

Let me mention one thing and then I'll get down to the substance of this letter. I was told that a man named Sherman H. Skolnick, a legal researcher from Chicago, has filed suit in the U.S. District Court there against the Archives for certain documents which are not released. These are all from the WC's files and are, I think, CD 47:6,9,10,14. Skolnick maintains that these documents indicate Thomas Vallee was driving a car on 11/2/63 in Chicago that can be traced to LHO. I've heard nothing at all about any of this personally--this account is based on a newspaper account someone read. I have Skolnick's address. I just guessed you'd be interested in this.

The actual matter I'm writing about concerns the Black Panthers, about whom I am doing a research paper. My knowledge of them is limited, and is largely more concentrated on their purpose than actual applications of their ideas in actual situations. Most of my stuff on them thus far comes from Ramparts, though I don't know how reliable that is. Also have some Panther newspapers.

I recall from when I was there you speaking of police murders of the Panthers. This is a very important part of what I intend to write, so I was wondering what you could tell me about this area. Do you have any definite proof that the cops conspired to murder the Panthers, or the opposite where the killing was in other than "self-defense."

I'd also like to know your views on the Panthers; I think that may guide me well. One cannot mention their name before the whites in my school so it is just about impossible to get a sensible opinion around here. I might be able to interview Panther representatives in Phila if I can get in touch with any.

Right now, I'm in the middle with them. They have their good points and bad. Then there is the question of the need for them, if any. As a "whitey" from suburbia, I wonder if the police brutality is as bad as they say. Or even police harrassment.

If you could provide any advice or information in this area, I'd really appreciate it. I've started a Panther file and may continue working on them after I complete the assignment for school. It encompasses such a broad topic, and warrents much discussion. Of course, we are limited through letters. When we can get together again, I'd like to talk about this.

Best,

Howard