

5/23/76

Senator Richard Schweiker  
Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dick,

It is gratifying to owe you a retraction of some of my last letter.

The accounts I had seen and heard that had you in agreement with Senator Hart's statement were wrong. Scott Malone yesterday showed me a story establishing this. If he got the TV attention and you didn't, I'm sure glad you took issue with him and what he said.

Because of uneasiness about what others were doing and how it was going on the Hill on JFK matters I switched my focus to the King assassination. There is more to do than I can do so this seemed to hold more promise of accomplishment. It still does.

Jim Lesar and I are in court Tuesday in my suit for the remaining executive session transcripts. You may recall that in an earlier, similar suit I beat the government for the first time when it invoked "national security." We are before a judge who is a stranger to us. However, we hope to be able to depose CIA people.

On King we were before Judge Green last Tuesday. We presented a Vaughn v. Rosen motion for an inventory of the acknowledged 203,500 documents. The judge gave the government until 6/11 to deliver what is called for, prove it doesn't exist or establish immunity. This means we'll have to be prepared for trickery because they can't produce without exposing themselves. I have enough already to establish this.

I hope we can frustrate their almost-certain stonewalling.

Examination of a few more of the CIA records tells me no retraction is called for there. I'm far from through them all.

If this week's story on the FBI's withholding of its assassination file after subpoena means you do not have to hold those records in confidence - and I mean not the file itself but the fact of non-compliance with the subpoena - I think it could be very helpful in court where we have the issue of compliance. With Judge Green in particular from what she has said in court. These cases also are going to be FOIA precedent.

This week also I read direct quotation of your committee's files on mail interceptions. You may not remember it but when we met I told you I have proof my mail was intercepted, suggested you subpoena all records on this, and later asked if you obtained any records you could let me have. I have filed an FOIA/PA request. There has been complete non-compliance on this. My initial request was years before your committee was established. Years before any testimony on this. I'm sorry we could not work together on this. I think it would have helped your efforts, too. We will still be going to court on this, when we can. It will depend on what Jim can do. I will establish an unexposed CIA front for domestic intelligence in court. I have the proof now. I hope to be able to do more. With help I'm certain of it.

Good luck with your report.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

# Motives Sought in JFK Death

By George Lardner Jr.  
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Senate intelligence committee voted yesterday to recommend a congressional investigation of the motives behind the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The committee took action at a closed session called to discuss the findings of its special report on the shortcomings of the Central Intelligence Agency in its investigation of the assassination.

The report, which was made available to the public yesterday, took up the question of why Sen. Gary W. Hart (D-Colo.) told reporters that he had seen an envelope in the possession of Warren Commission member Richard Goodwin Smith that Lee Harvey Oswald was Kennedy's last assassin.

But he added that the report was a "red herring" which the Warren Commission did not understand was "why."

"It is still a red herring," Hart said. "I think the lingering doubts remain." The other subcommittee member, Sen. Richard S. Schweiker (R-Pa.), predicted that the committee would release a fairly detailed and he hinted, troubling report later this month on failures in the original investigation of the President's death and ongoing investigations that need to be pursued.

Schweiker indicated that he was not persuaded that Oswald acted alone or even that Oswald fired any of the bullets that day in Dallas. "I have always questioned the

See CIA, A-1, Col. 1



Some critics of the Warren Commission's work have suggested that Kennedy's 1963 murder may have been in retaliation for the CIA's reported sponsorship of plots to assassinate Castro.

The report also suggested that the commission was misled by a CIA source who told it that the bullet of the assassin was fired from the left side of the assassin's head, but that the Warren Commission did not understand that the bullet was fired from the right side of the assassin's head.

Even on Nov. 22, 1963, the day Kennedy was shot in Dallas, a high-ranking CIA official was meeting in Paris with a secret agent who was a Castro intimate to offer

him a pen rigged with a poison hypodermic needle for use on the Cuban premier.

The heavily censored CIA assassination documents made public yesterday touched not only on Castro, but also on other foreign leaders killed in coups or attempted coups with various degrees of U.S. backing.

The documents were released by Robert Borosage of the non-profit Center for National Security Studies as part of a freedom-of-information project jointly sponsored with the American Civil Liberties Union.

The records were all made available last year to the Rockefeller Commission and then to the Senate committee, presumably with fewer deletions.

One six-page document, dated May 13, 1961, titled "CIA Covert Activities, Dominican Republic," had everything excised from it except part of one paragraph. It pointed out that the CIA had supplied "internal opposition leaders" with three .38 cal. revolvers, three carbines and accompanying ammunition as "personal defense weapons attendant to their projected efforts to neutralize Trujillo."

According to the records released yesterday, Castro's assassination was mentioned as early as March 9, 1960, during a meeting of the CIA's "Branch 4 Task Force." Presiding was Col. J. C. King, the chief of the Western Hemisphere Division.

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 The documents showed that the legacy of assassination involvement continued to pursue the CIA even after last year's investigations were starting to bring them to the surface.  
 In early April of 1975, a few weeks before the final U.S. evacuation of South Vietnam, for instance, CIA headquarters here was evidently told of a "potential coup" being planned against South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu in hopes that the change would bring continued American support for the beleaguered county.  
 The CIA reacted with deep alarm, fueled by memories of the 1963 coup that resulted in the death of President Ngo Dinh Diem.  
 "With Diem precedent and current allegations against our agency," then-CIA Director William E. Colby cabled Saigon on April 4, 1975, "it would be both institutional and national disaster if there were any remote connection between us and such an event . . . If things get complicated at all, advise and I will recommend strongest effort to facilitate Thieu and family safe passage and haven."