

widow of Bill Safter. Some of his notes and drafts received in brown Texaco envelope with no other return address, two stamps missing, ~~to~~ 12/26/74. Postmark illegible.

Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701
12/27/74

Dear Jan Scudder,

The Texaco package was very interesting. Despite poor legibility I spent hours with a magnifying glass on the pale typing.

Wayne, who you may have seen by now, did not exaggerate. It represents some very provocative work. And I do want very much to go over the notes when that is possible because the sources are important.

Bill's basic reasoning and mine are very close. They do not coincide on detail, which can make the notes and particularly the sources more valuable. One possibility is a working of the Department of Disinformation.

The operation was not nearly as unsophisticated as what has been published indicates. It began with careful planning of false leads. So, the possibility that others were arranged in advance can't be ruled out.

I was aware of the LL & L possibility and made reference to it in my book. However, I am not at all certain that it is for real, aware as I am of the possibility and the significance. Either way it is very important. Before there is a trial, which I hope there will be, I would like to be able to know more, whichever way the evidence leads. It doesn't make any difference to me what turns out to be more probable.

He was absolutely right on the cops, more than this material indicates. And it was not restricted to the cops. When we are together, as I hope will be possible, I'll tell you more on this. Some of what this material holds on the cops, however, can be of great value prior to and during trial. This again means the notes and the sources are the thing. We'll have subpoena power in a trial. (If I didn't tell you, my interest is not literary. It is for trial and in the hope trial can be a means of establishing truth.) The kind of thing that may be easier for you and his mother to understand is the disappearance of evidence, to which he does refer. And I have several tapes of interviews with solid people who did also say that the cops and other public officials did know in advance. Not only public officials.

I don't know the volume of this material, but if there is any danger in having it the safest thing to do is to xerox a set and deposit it elsewhere. If I knew the cost I'd be better able to say if I could pay for this. This also would be the best way for the defense to study it, after which it could be placed wherever you might want. I would hope you would want it to be with my very extensive files which will end as a university archive. However, were this to be agreeable to you and his mother, I would also see to it that all his work is kept separately and identified as his and his alone. If you can make any literary arrangements, and my own experience is not encouraging on this, I'd help however I could.

Did he deposit anything with Hodding Carter?

If you were with him when he did some or all of this work, you also may have information that subsequent work can show to have value.

When you can, please talk to his mother and see if she is willing for me to go over this material. If there were any real danger in having it, something would have happened to it before we could get to an evidentiary hearing. If it were known. But caution remains correct. Thanks and best,