

Dear Earl, *John*

9/3/78

The stories with your 8/30 are helpful, thanks. For my info and in some ways in FOIA efforts.

If you still want to follow the report that Hosty sprung Hall I think the best shot today is through one of Hall's right-wing Dallas friends of that period. Whoever did it had enough influence to see to it that no record remained. While the FBI could have done that Hall's past was not linked to it. It had some CIA relationships, at least in common interests.

Hosty's explanation to you, that ATF men were taken for Secret Service, is not only reasonable - it suggests that the FBI now wants it out. He would not have spoken to you without an OK from high up. He then would not have said what he was not wanted to say. If only because this report was never really investigated - and besides the Commission the Dallas police, FBI and Secret Service all had interest in cleaning that report up - it appears to be worth following.

My belief is that while the FBI expects the House assassins to confirm the official story, perhaps with minor variations, the FBI is feeding it bad stuff and it is taking this bad stuff. Along with the bad it is feeding what is good info. I have ways of knowing this from the records I've gotten. Laying any conspiratorial reports to rest thus serves present FBI interests.

If I could see your stories closer to the time they appear I might be able to feed back to you better. It is getting to where I can't remember as once I did, and in the past 12-15 months I've gone over a fantastic number of records. I tried to check Hardee out for you, for example, and could not. While it is my opinion that his name is not mentioned in any of the records I've read, I can't be absolutely sure.

I'm keeping the records I get exactly as I get them. I go over them without taking the bound volumes apart. I attach slips of paper, with paperclips, indicating which I want copies and for what purposes. My wife then goes over all these volumes, one at a time, makes the copies, and preserves the volumes in their original form. She keeps the copies in their original numerical sequence and I go over them in that order, making most where I have time or need and then filing them, by name and when possible by subject. In what has been copied to now I've no separate file on Hardee, as I think I would from the content of your story. This can mean that he lied, that the FBI ignored that line or that if it did investigate, the records are withheld - if I did not miss it. I think I would not have.

To now I've read all the stories you sent except those relating to Hunt. I have to organize what I do differently now, so I save reading for rest periods, like after I now for a while, which is harder for me than once it was. (Also very good for me.) I'm writing this before I get into today's work not to get busy and forget because more FOIA work is immediately ahead and because the copying of the Ruby records is only about a third done. We had a machine failure which slowed my wife down. I have a few copies in an envelope for you and if it doesn't get smothered in one of the many stacks on my desk it will go out in Tuesday's first mail. If other records I've marked for you surface I'll mail them later.

I can confirm part of Trento's stories on the Senate committee's interest. One of its staff was in touch with me on this month's ago. I spent a morning with him, besides phone calls. My own view is a variant of what Trento's sources told him - that the CIA was using Epstein and that the Angletonians rather than the military turned Epstein around. If as I believe his views and theirs are politically identical, they had common interest. I believe the delay in the appearance of Legend and the changes in it, including of the title and price, confirm me in this but of course I do not know.

Thanks and best wishes,