

2/15/70

Dear Moo,

Writing you people has been one of the least productive things I do. When I consider that it cannot benefit me personally, I sometimes wonder why I do it, with all the other things I can do and want to, especially. I guess it is because I think of you as furry little lemmings who might be led away from the shore. And should be.

Hoping I have captured your attention, and that perhaps, you can be impelled to do something to help yourself, I tell you that as soon as I got the transcripts yesterday I began reading them. I've gone over the eight Clinton witnesses and a few others.

I met three or four of the Clinton witnesses the morning they went into the courtroom to see if they could identify Shaw. I found them very credible witnesses. Reading their testimony, they come out the same way, really quite credible.

Some of this story - not theirs - is in the Warren Commission files. I saw some reports in the days when I just wasn't spending money on xeroxing because I didn't have it. Then, when I took Tom to the Archives, I expected he would pick this sort of thing up and have it. I do not know whether he did, but I do know he also saw these reports, for he once asked my opinion of them and the incident.

There is one thing that runs through their testimony that is so conspicuously inconsistent: it immediately captured my interest: the FBI method. When the FBI found a witness or witnesses they didn't want credited, they didn't ignore them. They worked on them. I don't know how many times they saw Mary Moorman. But I'll bet I've close to a dozen brief reports on it. With Arnold Louis Howlan, who they couldn't shake, they saw him more than a half-dozen times, but when they didn't want a record, they just didn't file reports. Look at the Ferris material I've just sent you. How many reports are there? I have just found a written you (through Louis, yesterday) about a few more still. Same with Dave Chandler, who they saw more than they reported. Same also with Pens and that part of the story.

The one thing the FBI didn't do was stay away. They tried to get the people to say what they wanted or to write reports giving the version they wanted. They even did this with the Secret Service men they interviewed.

But not with Clinton. There they stayed away, knowing there were witnesses and what they could say. Remember, one even called up and was told, "we know all about it".

Now, with the Baton Rouge stuff, which they knew they could shake, they went ahead and shook it. Here they did something I do not recall from any other incident: they tried to leave it alone.

When the FBI behaves in a way so entirely different than its usual way, I think we have to regard it as significant, and I think we should seriously consider whether this may not have meant this is one they had better leave alone. Remember, as I have just written you and Tom, these are the guys who got magazines Oswald could never, possibly have touched,

and, knowing full well he could not have, went through the whole elaborate, costly and time-consuming process of treating every tiny part of every single pages for fingerprints. What is consistent about that is the total absence of any reports on what fingerprints they did find. You know they found some. As I recall it, they reported a single case of one of his on all seven magazines.

So, late as it is for the basic work that should have been done before the trial, I think it should still be done before there are any more trials. The indications here are that something or somebody important was hidden. I have a hunch what it might be.

Bearing on this is what I am also inclined to believe, that there was an employment application and that it disappeared. In that institution this was no track at all. After all, how they not confined a man without due process on the main of a federal agency? And in an aspect of this case?

I cannot possibly begin working through the Archives on this starting from scratch. So, I am writing to ask that you make duplicate copies of those things you did get for me and send anything else you have on this that you did not use in the trial. With this for a beginning, it may be possible for me yet to find more. This will not take you long, for these files are few and accessible, so please get one of the women to copy them and send them as soon as possible, to the end that I can have others do some checking through what they have and so I can plumb that literary morass in Washington as soon as possible.

On another subject, you asked how much it would cost to duplicate the clearer copy of the WISU IEM footage I have finally gotten them to produce, marked as the original, whether or not it is. The technician told me when I saw it that it would fall within the minimum. That is \$10.00. Now I do not know your plans for the Shaw trial, but I would hope they include the Lawrence material. In this event, I think you may want to project the picture of him and Palmisano with the blueprints and briefcase. I think I have spotted them and Neeley (who I am still trying to locate, having traced her back to Dallas after separating from Ike). Or, perhaps, you may want to show stills. I have established this is one of the stills the FBI never gave the Warren Commission. I would encourage you not to regard this as an oversight on their part. And while I cannot say that from this particular footage you will be able to identify people in the background, like toward Canal St., the direction in which it was shot, I do think it will be more of a possibility. Because the Archives will not let me have a copy, should we want it, without WISU's approval, I have already written Ed Flaner and asked for this, also telling him about the film and its markings. I have, in fact, as I originally told him, kept him posted on what I've learned of it. And I have also written Johann seeking more information.

Now, I am not taking this time before daylight on a Sunday morning when I'm not well and have much of my own work to do because I do think not think this can be important to you. I believe it may very well be. So, please help me to help you for a change. And do it now. It will take you only a few moments....and if you want snow, you should be here now. Just as a whole this, with a little light as the dawn approaches, quail ran up to the window, under which last night I put feed out for them. I can see what I think are deer tracks within 10 feet. We have about 4" of new snow. Best,