

8/24/68

Dear Paul and Gary,

Apparently embarrassed by a combination of my letters and his own oversight, Mike Simmons copied the things Hal and Gary had asked for and some of my own requests (including an expensive number of what I said I didn't want!), then mailed them. They arrived today. I have skimmed them. As I can I will copy and forward. I will do this within the next several days. I cannot take this hunk of time from the work I am doing and will use this as a break in thinking. Also, I am almost out of 3M paper. That \$35 per box is a lot of \$\$\$ right now.

What I did while waiting for a guest is decide what to do first as I skimmed. I have taken from what Hal ordered those things relating to the rumor Oswald was an FBI agent or informant. I regard these as potentially important. I call to your attention certain recollections from this hasty, single reading and refer you to my earlier writing, particularly OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS, and especially the chapter analyzing the Hoover-McCone testimony and statements. This entire affair was handled in a manner indicating guilty knowledge. Hubert's memo is an understatement. Do these documents address the San Francisco end? Hal might recall if he ordered something not here or where we should look to get it. Ditto New Orleans. If these are not available, I think we have additional signals. There are other obvious gaps, like no mention of checks under aliases, for example, Harvey Lee or Lee Murrett, etc. Note, too, that Hubert's suspicion or Rankin's fastens on the Fain interview, on which I did in C in NO. I have a hunch that could be when LHO went back into service, that being the purpose of Fain's visit, or relating to it.

I think you may recall that from the first I have felt the connections were with the CIA. Rankin mentions this but absolutely no reason for it. Hoover straightfacedly goes past that. There are other intriguing formulations and omissions in his statements. Note also that while the original report alludes to an account number, this is thereafter always referred to as something else, like a voucher number. There is no denial of any account number. (Paul, can you run these numbers through your list of numbers? I gave Garrison my copy file of each item in the notebook, so I cannot speedily do it with that.) Now the CIA uses a variety of fronts and corporations. I have a file they do not know I have obtained, showing one front, with the corporate and personal names, the bank, the title of the account, even the checks in photocopy. It is quite feasible for this to be the right dope and the wrong three initials. Note that the appropriate questions and answers and denials are missing from the CIA. Further, while I cannot authenticate my source, of whom both of you know, I have from it reason to think such a six-number identification is a possibility, even if CIA agents say this is not a proper identification (Boxley). I'd be particularly interest in this number in your file, Paul.

I have completed a draft of what may be an addition to COUP D'ETAT, may be a long magazine article, may be neither, but will be part of a lengthy analysis of the ex. sessions and I must read it so my wife can be typing it. Without the quotations from the transcripts it is 40 300-word pages, and the quotes are extensive. Until I get that done I can do little with this, save squeeze in the copying. I'll ask each of you to keep identifications to be certain the Archives did all the copying (Hal has his list, Paul). But I stop to comment on

this

subject because I regard it as important and feel this memo tells us we should go further and search diligently until we have gotten every possible item. If Gary can return here for a couple of days before going back to school, I think that would be great, because I cannot possibly stop the writing for this research. If he cannot I do not know who can or when. I can attempt it only by phone and letter, which is not the best way.

Gary, I had just sent Paul a copy of my exchange with the Archives on the absence of the ex sess transcript for 1/22. I think this is enormously significant. They do not even list it as withheld. I regard the mobilization of all that exes legal talent on a rush trip to Washington as absolutely important, for there was nothing new about this rumor. Before it got published my own analysis led to a magazine lead and summary the week of the assassination. It had been in the papers for at least a month before that sudden flying to Washington. The flights and near-panic I think indicate there was reason to feel the proof might out.

I cannot understand why this memo is undated. It is the one without a date and the identification of the one who drafted it that I can recall. I think, therefore, that the date was omitted on purpose and Rankin wrote it himself,

Were it not that he was absent so often, though his record at the ex sess's was very good, I'd draw significance from Russell's absence. He is the best CIA friend in the Senate, though he doesn't trust them a bit.

Here also we may have an explanation for the Hosty omission in the initial FBI notebook transcription, for Hosty's month-long delay in typing his notes, etc.

Note the statement attributed to Storey, which is accurate. I think it is not accurate to say, as R does, that Warren gave the ex sess of 1/27 the "results" of this meeting. That transcription reveals he said little of any meaning at all.

I might even speculate why Hubert was assigned to this analysis. Perhaps because he had been a district attorney. But I think at least as likely is the alleged reason for hiring him (his influence with Roggs may have done it), his intimate knowledge of New Orleans, the people and situation. Rankin told the 1/21 ex sess of Hubert, "While he was home on a weekend someone gave him another lead about Oswald being connected with somebody that may help in regard to the Mexican situation". Ref. to trip. This memo we should also seek, assuming Hubert left one. In short, this bracketed with my discovery that all other reference in the files to that 1/22 ex sess, of which I have already written in this new thing, convince me we now have hot and viable leads. Gotta get back to work. I'll send the other documents as I can copy. Best to you all,