

take was of July 9, exactly the date of this note. It was packed by HI and shipped via KB, indicating, I think, that Wayne made the delivery. This is covered by Receipt No. 3414 (and the previous entry, of "No Pages", by No. 3368.

Similarly, Vol. 59, same bookkeeping sheet, next to bottom entry, also "Comm", then lined through and "No Pages" indicated, is covered by Receipt No. 3612. While most of the items in this entry are not filled in, it does indicate a shipment 8/25, six copies, Shipped By" BK, Receipt No. 3535.

You know what I have discovered in the other "No Pages" items. I would appreciate it if these could be checked out. This also bears on what I asked of you Thursday, a copy of every receipt. I would not suggest inquiry of Jesse, Wayne or others for their recollections, at least not at this point.

Perhaps it is not a warranted suspicion to wonder what was happening at the crossroads, but with the dirty work already known to have taken place, it is also unwise to assume there was but a single case.

I would like to know what members of the staff, for example, if there is an extant record. Or whether others than staff members also were present, whether or not witnesses.

Except for me, everybody gets paid in some way. Therefore, the billings should indicate something, at least the compromise worked out to compensate the company and the reporter. Again, you know what I found in one case.

If you made copies for yourself, please check to see if you have any duplicates. I ask this because I have two, and these could be for a second set. I have segregated, if you need.

With further reference to 7/9, I note what I cannot explain. Here there is reference to Vol. No. 58, possibly. Now this and 59 are New Orleans Volumes, as the tabulations show. In fact, 52 through 60 are. (In this area, beginning with 41, only 6 are not. 37 is also N.O., 78-82, 100, 115, 132 too.) So, we have what also would appear to be a chronological conflict, with Vol. No. 58 (or 57) having untyped content dated 7/9, whereas everything else in that sequence is April 7-8.

I do believe this is worth following carefully. Hope you can find the time, and that you can make me two copies of everything so I can more safely take one to N.O. with me. I may also want to visit the Thomas Co., and if I do I think it would be wise to have everything relevant with me.

Whatever these people do and do not do, can and cannot, they can count. Ward and Paul can and does keep straight records, at least in the normal course of events.

Paul and Gary,

1/12/69

Perhaps the attached letter to Bud will interest you. He and I have both had considerable experience with Ward & Paul, court reporters. They are exceedingly competent and are popular in Congressional quarters because they do very good work and exceedingly expeditiously. In my day on the Hill, they were one of the two firms of best repute. My opinion, from that day and from my knowledge of the partners, is that they do nothing questionable unless it is asked or expected of them. They always gave me overnight service, which was important to me.

His relationship with them is current, therefore, I asked him, when he offered, to get from their files rather than those of the Commission certain things I wanted. He had told me that he was going to a New Years party that Jesse Ward would also attend. I asked him to stay away from certain areas, told him what I already had, etc. They were quite cooperative with him. It turned out he did not have time to talk to Ward, but did go to their offices the next day.

Bud went through and copied the files himself. He told me Thursday that he did copy everything relating to N.O. The significance of this is in the letter to him. If either of you has a list of the N.O. witnesses, I'd like a copy to compare. LaCuer's letters of 4/10 cover Marilyn Murret, Adrian Albe, Mrs Jesse Gerner; Mildred Sawyer; Charles LeBlanc. 4/13: Lillian Murret, Edward Pic, Viola Peterman, Anne Boudreaux, Francis Martello, Benniersta Smith, William Wulf, Francis S. O'Sullivan, John Murret. 4/20, Edward Voebel, Julian Evans, both Charles Steeles, Charles Muret. I keep expecting to find a desposed witness for whom there is no transcript!

To the degree I now can, with the extra pressures, I will try and follow this down. If either of you has a theory of why there should have been this single staff meeting that required the presence of a court reporter, yet for which there was no transcript, and at that time, I'd like to hear it. I do not isolate July 9 as a day or time of special significance. A few things do suggest themselves, but I find no persuasive reason for believe they could account for this unusual thing. Perhaps the missing papers, which I believe Bud can find and I think I can at the Archives may tell me more, or enough. He had indicated he might come up today, but he hasn't, nor has he called. I will phone him soon if he hasn't called me. He was out yesterday when I called him. I may go to New York with him Wednesday, each for different reasons. If I do go I will come back that night or the next day, in time to meet Kouma Bertel, who will argue the pix-X-rays case, at the airport about 3:30. I will be in DC all the next day, with him, at court, and, presumably, taking him to the airport.

Harold