Dear Howard,

two 7/5/77

Your 7/1 mailing of ~~three~~ 6/27 carbons here today. plus 6/30 memo

In your letter to Richard M. Rogers, Item 4., you refer to Civil Division records. I remind you of two lawsuits in which it should have figured, one I know it did. This one is La. v Shaw. The other is my 2569-70, pix of clothing. The name there to remember on this subject is Carl Eardley. Remember also there should be records of that crew driving to Baltimore for Fisher to steam them up. They were ready to throw the towel in.

Your Willens memo and letter to Buckley are about the same thing.

There are other Manchesterian candidates. Begin with what M would regard as poisonous in Epstein that might be of interest to the Kennedys. My recollection s of the Epsteink are not clear but I recall no criticism of any Kennedy. He was poisonous about Warren and he was crazy about the autopsy being rewritten after 1/20/64. What is not generally appreciated is that it is favorable to the FBI. And as opposed to the WC.

It is not unlikely that Ma. reached Willens through a contact like Kennedy people, office or DJ, or from the Archives, where Man. had an office. I have no reason to believe Willens is or was liberal. Example: the one time he came out of his shell was to appear on Panorama with Jones Harris to clobber Warren for withholding JEHoover's warnings. I was on the same show and produced from their records what had not been classified or withheld. And on the imposter question asked Willens why he did not get the Bolton Ford records when that was his responsibility. His non-response: ad hominem. So he is back in his shell and will at least for a while stay there. My point is they'll all opt self-service, and that can account for his help to Man.

So there are two Burkleys. The one of the secret records then still secret and the one who knew what was being said and had read the autopsy proctocol. Why should he have disputed the official story so soon and for Man?

On the panel, there should be records showing that John Roche, LBJ's intellectual in residence, had this idea. He wrote a column so stating. I'd duplicate this with the LBJ library... On the Scavengers quote and all the lawyers saying Bobby would not let them see the film: this was the popular mythology fostered very early, why I early latched onto the 4/30/64 Specter memo, which Specter wrote for Specter. I'm more inclined to believe that Willens did not set this straight for Kennedy but against Warren. They could thensee kickbacks for the staff, which was not about to tangle with the FBI. Who else but Warren? In this am I not consistent with the Willens of that PM chapter?

Another Civil guy in on these affairs in those days is named Jaffe.

What we have obtained in the King case about Civil and FOIA and me says they make Hoover into a liberal, relatively.

Motive for most of those people then and since is most likely first of all selfish and then, defensively, Warren was wrong, not me. He kept me from doing what I would have done had it not been for him.

At this moment you are now at home. I suggested that a Danish reporter speak to you. He has just told me he has not been able to reach you. I suggested you'd be in a law library and to phone after 5. Did I write your number down correctly: 904/743-5845.

Comes back to me that Manchester was working during the Commission period and had access then. His relationship with Willens can go back to there.

Best,

MEMO re AUTOPSY PIX & X-RAYS and HOWARD WILLENS, ADM. BURKLEY
by Howard Roffman, 6/30/77

Reading over some oldmaterials, I've come across an interesting link between Howard Willens and disinformation re the pix & X-rays. Burkley is also involved.

It all involves that very intriguing footnote in Manchester's book, page 156-7 hardback, 178 paper. Manchester tries to debunk Epstein's INQUEST without mentioning it by name, re the back wound. He claims that the "issue is resolved" by the photos and X-rays and mentions says he discussed them with 3 men who saw them who were strangers to each other, i.e., not the autopsy docs. (Who, then?) He represents them as saying the photos show the wound in the neck, not the back. This is supported, he adds, by the autopsy docs "including the President's personal physician," i.e., Burkley. So, as Manchester tells it, Burkley told him that the wound was in the neck. Surely this is at odds with what Burkley wrote in the death certificate.

With this footnote in mind, consider the letter quoted in full in John Corry's THEMANCHESTER AFFAIR, published in 1967 by Putnam's. On July 17, 1966 Manchester wrote to RFK. Among other matters, he noted that "Epstein's Inquest, a really poisonous job, needn't trouble us any more longer. With the help of Dr. Burkley and Howard Willens I think I've knocked out what, at first reading, appears to be one strong point in Epstein's version." (This is from p. 72 of Corry's book.)

Willens was still working for the criminal division of the Justice Dept. In his book, Manchester lists an interview with Willens dated July 8, 1966, 9 days before his letter to RFK. In light of what Manchester wrote in his book, what "help" could Willens have given except something connected with the pix and X-rays? And why would Manchester go to Willens, in the government, for help at this point when officially the photos and X-rays were supposed to be in RFK's constructive possession? Richard Goodwin says that Manchester was denied permission to see the stuff himself, presumably by RFK.

On Willens, there is an interesting quote from Epstien in Lewis & Schiller's THE SCAVENGERS... It supposedly comes from their interview with EJE: "When I was interviewing the lawyers, they all said they didn't see these (the pix & X-rays), because Bobby Kennedy had refused to show them. But one of the lawyers, Howard Willens, checked his files and found Senator Kennedy never refused. It was Warren who didn't want to see them." (p. 117-18, paperback) It could be significant that Willens here was willing to support RFK when the other lawyers tried to shift the blame to him. But then, of course, it was Willens who helped engineer the framing of RFK by the Warren Commission--see Chapter 27 of Post Mortem.

I have already written DJ for any possible Willens documents. He will be a hot one to question in a possible lawsuit, as will Burkley.

HR