

1/22/71

Dear Ed,

Fascinating detail on Maheu-Appel, which I'd missed. I knew of the Anderson story (and am glad to have dupe for future use), and recognized the name from the news I've had only time to scan, and that infrequently, lately.

But I was not aware of his use of Appel.

Innocent explanation is obvious: he knew Appel from his Bureau days, or because of of them, knew his rep.

But it is not necessary to assume there can be nothing except innocence, wherein lies what could be fascinating.

If there is a connection, I doubt we'll ever know it.

Entirely in confidence, for I've told but a couple, the death of Russell means a bit more to me because we'd been in touch. We had discussed evidence, his misgivings and doubts, etc., and I had put things in his hand based upon which he also did things that now there is little likelihood will go any farther.

One of the minor stupidities that had so much influence on the work of the Commission is that he really believed LBJ put him on it to immobilize him in the civil-rights struggle. As he told me, he did not abdicate that. He did shun his Commission responsibilities. While he had the wrong preconceptions, following them, as he began to only at the very end and too late, would have changed everything.

No time for more. Deep in urgent and complicated legal moves, with deadline.

Thanks,  
HW