

1/28/77

Dear Dave,

Last night, just in time for the showing of Roots, I finished going over the last of the FBI records I've received relating to the King assassination. Jim has the next batch but weather has kept us separated.

If more than 2,000 documents - not pages - permit conclusions, without having had time to think it through and organize thoughts I believe some conclusions are fairly drawn.

Perhaps what is foremost in my mind is the archival value. It may not be apparent to those who have not had the experiences I have had with the intelligence and investigative agencies but as of now I would say that in years to come the content relating to the subject, MURKIN, will not be the important aspect.

Unintentionally MURKIN puts it well. This is what they were doing.

If I had the capability of paying for it and if Jim could do as well as he has and we kept pushing and obtained all the records, not just the about 90 volumes promised, I am certain that when they are all out down in one place there is a career in significant scholarship for not one but a whole crew of young people who become historians, political scientists, psychologists and fellow other disciplines. This may seem far out but believe me, it is in what I have written already.

It staggers one. More if one considers what it has done to all of society, to the quality of life - what it has meant and will continue to mean for all of us. This is where and how the most basic national policy was made. Presidents had their own notions, hopes and plans but the clamp on the national mind applied by Hoover limited it all and controlled most of it.

In time I'll be writing the third part of The King Conspiracies. I'll get the highlights in there. There is so much I'll try to find time for a few summary notes before then. But let me give you a little touch of the Hoover genius.

Here he was presiding over the investigation of the most heinous crime in history, admittedly the second largest in the FBI's history and I'd not be a bit surprised if it was actually the largest. In more than 2,000 documents all with stamps and notes for routing there is not one that shows it reached him. Not one subordinate of any rank, we are to believe, thought any single fact or development required his attention, nothing his decision. He does not exist save that there are forms and he is on them. All communications are addressed to him by title, never once by name. All go to "Director." All are in his name whether he sees them or not, like the reports of the lab are all on preprinted forms on which his signature is printed.

From these records it is possible to say that of the more than 2,000 he saw the rec(only!) because he has three notes. Each is on wire-service copy. Not a report from an agent or an office, not a reletype or a scientific report. His hates - and they are so irrational - are all that bring him personally into any of this. He hated the AG, Ramsey Clark, and the first note of his I found says in effect who the hell does the AG think he is tell the FBI what to do. This in connection with Clark's modest promise to tell the people what it was possible to tell. Hoover inveighs against the press in all. It is always irresponsible, self-seeking, etc. And in all he never misses a chance to manipulate it. The file is full of proposals, extending to using commercial TV time to statements for the White House to directive to filed offices, even foreign countries, on how to promote the FBI. Even to the phoneying of internal records to make it look better.

There is one news story on which he wrote a note saying the reporter must be a pet-snaker. That reporter seen enough was in trouble, I think ever draft status. UPI man.

I've heard when I'm to go to "etroit. 2/9. And I'm real pleased by the enclosed letter from the Univ. of Oregon. Best to all,