

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 a very good word 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 Murrett, Adrian Alba, Mrs Jesse Garner; Mildred Sawyer, Charles LeBlanc. 4/13: Lillian Murrett, Edward Pic, Viola Peterman, Anne Baudreaux, Francis Martello, Benniereta Smith, William Wulf, Francis S. O'Sullivan, John Murrett. 4/20, Edward Voebel, Julian Evens, both Charles Steeles, Charles Murrett. I keep expecting to find a desposed witness for whom there is no transcript!

To the degree I now can, with the extre 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 <sup>Mc</sup>oume 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