Staff meeting memo 8/4/70
Paul (Gary) HW

Tonight I took time to read this file with several things in mind. Until I have time to card it, I will keep it aside. I find in it reason to believe my original report, denied by Archives, is probably correct: some reports were removed, after I examined this file.

The presence of what does not belong here is one such evidence. If not in itself persuasive, it nonetheless is a fact that much of this drek is not the minutes of staff meetings. However, what is persuasive, is the promise, in yhhe first staff meeting at which reports of Oswald as an agent were discussed, includes the promise by Rankin there would be more on this subject. This is the last paragrpah of the one dated 2/12/64. This file now contains neither such a report or minutes but no suggestion of any. However, the three-page 3/12, which I have had from its proper file since 1966, touches indirectly on some of the relevant items and most clearly of all the extraneous items here, does not belong.

I remain certain that in a hasty check which could not be inclusive or careful I saw at least two such items and probably three.

These cannot possibly be all the staff meetings nor all the memos. One reason others may not be here is that wherever there are memos by more than one present, there are major differemces at least in emphasis and often in content and ellipsis. Only the crap gets any length. I find it impossible to believe there was no staff meeting between 4/24 and 8/24 and, in fact, I know there were.

The staff had deeper misgivings in some areas than here indicated.

If you haven't noted it, I am confident the staff was being conned-and successfully-by Rankin, who told them the opposite of what is in the Exsess.

If there is to be any further checking on staff memos, which I shall not have time to do, note the handwritten memo signed possibly with Shaffer's initials in which it is said to Rankin that an "extra copy" is being provided for "your file", presumeably of all staff-conference memos.

Rankin's 3/2/64 note written on the 3/2 memo says he got a number of memos on the subject of this meeting by the middle of that month. Did you see them? I wonder if they are worth the search time and effort?

I expect to be going over this file again with more care. It is my conviction that at some point it was gutted. There were real fights not here indicated, major subject hassles never touched upon, and certainly much more by far than this tiniff. While I do not know who gutted it or when, someone sure as hell did, and with care. Nonetheless, it holds a few sparklers. One is the participation of the Chief Justice in a transparent violation of the spirit of the Jencks decision re Ruby. However, it may end up good for us, for it makes certain legal arguments by me possible. It sure as hell will look bad in court! This seems to be the real or one of the reasons the FBI had all the originals.

I also suggest you can get a reading on Willens by comparing his memos with others of the same meeting. He edits spontaneously. He knows immediately what not to say, yet is in the positionnto defend himself by saying he had the essence.