

Later 12/26/77: Heard from single good source that it appears some members of the committee may get out. The report is that they do not like Blakey or the way he is running the committee. I believe it is probable that this extends to a number of the so-called critics who initially supported the committee. I've told you that Lane has been condemning it, not just Blakey. I think you could probably get most of those who were so hot for it to begin with to be less than luke warm today or outright against continuation. I know of some who would like it to end but believe politically it is unlikely now.

I have made no effort to obtain confirmation, and I'm not about to poll the members.

If you should speak to people like Lane and Bud I perhaps should suggest that Lane may well have come to understand that he has ambulance-chased himself into trouble and thus has special and different reasons than Bud and people like Bud. The most obvious is that he now knows from Lehnér that the committee has decided that Ray is the King assassin. But Lane had him before the committee's staff and puffed the committee up to him. On the other hand I told Jimmy exactly what my experiences with the committee were, what they meant and what it was really saying that he did not know. Lane will have to face the fact that he pushed Jimmy to the committee and over objections not mine alone only to have the committee find without any hearings or real investigation that Jimmy is guilty. Now it will not be easy for him to explain all this away. It will be impossible if he supports its continued operations in any way. It will also be impossible if he does not now oppose it.

I suspect he is now turning over formulations of how he and the members of the committee were double-crossed and that he will trace it all back to us CIA agents exposing Sprague.

HW