

Dear Donovan,

9/6/77

A call from Jackie Hess a few minutes ago reminded my wife that your committee is still dead-beating me.

For the second time.

Purdy called me about something else a while back and promised then that the check would be sent.

This call also reminded me that although Dick Sprague promised to pay my transportation costs for the two trips I made to confer with him I never received a penny. Now that your committee has been funded generously I'd also appreciate it if you speak to the moneybags so a check can be sent for that. In time the government will get it back anyway, for xeroxes.

Without tip cab fare between here and the Greyhound station is \$5.00. Two times both ways = \$20.00. The round-trip bus fare is about \$9.00. I haven't been able to use the bus since June so I've forgotten. This comes to \$29.00 plus twice the cab fare between the Greyhound station and your offices, two time. That is, if it is \$2.00 per trip it is \$4.00 each time or \$8.00 more.

You know I was there both times because we spoke both times.

Ms. Hess phoned to ask me to the confab she says your people are having for the 10-12 "critics" you consider most responsible. I told her no and that my opinion of the committee had not changed. She said she was sorry to hear this. I replied I was sorry to feel it.

Frankly, I'll be surprised if you can get this many people anyone outside the nuts would consider responsible.

I make no effort to keep up with what your people are doing but occasionally I hear or am asked. So I know about the St. Louis office, which is further certainty of the presumption of Ray's guilt without any real investigation. And I know that among the prime sources interviewed since someone there got enough sense to realize what happened when stuff hits the fan is Tommy Beckham. Even Garrison would not use him!

Your people are more for the Gene Snyder/Clifton Baird approach than for mine.

And for leaving such garbage and vilification uncorrected in the Congressional Record, which is a permanent, indexed record.

If I don't like this and all the rest like it I also have no use for a star-chamber approach that hides the identical misconduct. The Bents, if I recall the name correctly, the Beckhams and the silences after listening to the Baird tape.

Thick as all that stuff was it was also transparent. It was easy to figure out what insanity was being hidden on the phoney claim to a security need. I could do it with all immediately I heard the story with one exception that was so important in getting the committee continued, the Portugal-contact disinformation. I think I now know: Mickey McGuire. Former Tenn. State trooper.

Your committee and those who hope it may reform and do some good are lucky the press has not thought of the obvious, asking what happened to all that once glittered with promise as well as the promises made. But let there come a dull day and some reporter will think of it.

Meanwhile I wish only well to those of you who would like to do well.

Sincerely,