

Dear Jim,

2/13/74

The mineraturized chainsaw supplies copies firewood, which has cut our fuel-oil consumption in half, but I find that I can't have my mind on other things while I use it, not safely, so I'm a bit behind in my thinking time.

The orchestration of the (anti-)CIA leaks provokes interest without certain answers being immediately available.

This could have been leaked a year ago and wasn't. I was onto it a year and a half ago. Why, then, is it being leaked now and by whom?

The limited thinking I have been able to do tells me it is by someone on the Ervin committee or someone with its work available for the minor inaccuracies I find in it are those of this committee. Of course another committee whose hearings are unpublished could be the source because they have probably all gone for the same jazz.

I have seen nothing in print on these leaks.

Last week Dan Rather had a segment. I wrote him and I think carboned you.

Then Carl Stern had something. Now, several days ago, Dan Schorr, to whom I also wrote.

I rarely see ABC, so I don't know if they have had anything.

Each has had a slightly different story. All stories are consistent, saying, essentially, the same things - ~~Coke/Bex~~ Mullen/Bennett/CIA/Hunt.

Unless there are further leaks, then the more important parts of this story have not been leaked, which means that the leaker hasn't out it all together or doesn't know. Or what seems less likely, doesn't want to. If not the last, then why leak at all? Only to embarrass? To pressure?

Can this be a counter-Baker leak? Baker leaked a false account of Hunt's domestic activities, attributing them to LBJ.

This series of leaks has Bennett the CIA man, as he may well have been. What it does not include is that Mullen also was. Mullen was a Democrat, Bennett a Republican. What is interesting is that Bennett represents Hughes, Mullen did not. (Here the masking in Ex 142 is provocative. I'm certain some is relevant.)

None of these leaks connect Hunt and Mullen-Bennett prior to Hunt's retirement from CIA. The connection is much older. And it is now apparent that Hunt was doing little for Mullen.

I believe I have pinpointed the building in which Hunt was part of a domestic front. I got Lesar to get me the pages of the DC city directory for the whole 17 and Penna. Ave NW area for all those years. He is two blocks from a good library. I think it is 1750. He saw possibilities in some USIA offices, as I agreed, and I noted others. One of these Hal Bex Darland, who was in State, says was a spook front, so I believe it was in that suite, a large one, an entire floor, according to Hal, and all but one suite, according to the directories. The possibility that this one was a cover exists.

There is a real possibility that the Congressional oversight committees know what is the reality and are covering, as they always do.

With experience and with successes, Lesar is getting pretty good at these things. I have not heard from him in several days. I am to go to DC Saturday, to get together with him and Bud on what we next do in court in the Ray case. There will probably be time for other talk, but Saturday is not a day on which we can do much else. I'll also be limited by not having my car. I plan to take the bus unless they'll start early. The only a.m. Saturday bus gets me in DC 8:15 a.m.

I remain convinced that the best way to get into this and perhaps break it open is in court. I have enough for a good start but no means. Lesar is uneasy because of his lack of experience, so I don't push, and the ACLU cooled as soon as I left their offices.

On CIA what the Post and perhaps the Times have not used is enough to raise questions of complicity. Not for the first time, either. In considering this, if you do, many things will occur to you. One that might not is the departure from the Post of Dan Kurzman after a good Dominican expose. This happened in May, 1966. It followed immediately upon his having Whitewash assigned to him and his having gone for it big. So, he was taken off that fast, replaced by Dick Harwood... Much suggests Post-liberal CIA wing affinity.

Best,