

Dear Howard,

9/19/77

The House assassins committee is more paranoid than even I'd thought.

They had their weekend with the critics this past weekend. I declined.

Sylvia was there. She is the source of my source, Ted Gandolfo, who called me today in complete disgust over other matters. He's pissed off at the way they're treating him. He had a long shouting match by phone today with Blakey over their indecision about his tapes. Or beginning with that.

Knowing he'd be unhappy about not having been invited I told him about the session. He spoke to Sylvia, who confirmed that she was there but would give no more by way of factual statement. She said they not only had to take an other that they would say nothing - they had to sign one! Saying nothing included not saying who was there.

She was not unwilling to offer a guarded opinion, that she has no hope for them.

It is possible Ted will learn more about what went on. It is possible that the oaths will not be kept. Maybe I'll learn more.

I'm sure that besides Sylvia the committee expected Hoch and Peter Dale Scott. I think Tink Thompson, O'Toole and Bud. My invite, the first, was about three weeks ago. After I turned it down Dohovan way phoned and asked me to please be there to sit on the suttly stuff and the irrelevant-he wanted to get basic. I declined, but because I believe this was really his purpose I gave him an explanation and a promise, an explanation aside from what he knew, my intense desire to have nothinb to do with the committee.

I told him if I were to be there it would be a continuous hassle. I also said that the more crazy stuff comes out the better - but that if he had any problem with any of it after the session to run it past me and I'd then decide whether or not to knock it down. I said I might and indeed I might.

They have suddenly gotten interested in Post Mortem. I had a call several weeks ago for two, in a hurry. I had left a couple with Jim, so they got them. They I got another call week before last. They had to have two by a week ago today, 9/12. I said they'd just gotten two, why didn't they check. They checked and said they want two more but mail would be okay.

Tonight there is another one going the rounds, the Sturgis crap that was in the NY Daily News. I've had a couple of calls from the NYTimes and they'll do nothing tonight. Sturgis has produced that woman who said she slept with Castro and was to have given him poison. Now it has grown to where they had Oswald at an Everglades training camp and that Diaz Lanz and Orlando Bosch and Sturgis drove Oswald from there to Dallas. I did what I could to give them to understand it is ludicrous and is made ludicrous to hurt some paper. But once a desk gets a hot tip that Oswald was an assassin they are not concerned even with superficial reasonableness....The timing is with Priscilla's book and the piece I have not seen, Marina's in a woman's magazine. It got some radio play, Jim says TW also. Someone has probably debugged Marina's account of how she looked LHO in the bathroom on the wrong date....In a way not clear to me there is supposed to be a question are the House assassins interested in the new Sturgis-Bosch-Lanz story.

Is there any wonder our drought broke tonight with a thunderstorm? Almost as soon as the sealer coat that takes 24 hours to dry was applied to the driveway/lane.

Best,