

RECEIVED
FEB 11 1974

Noted by [unclear]
74-787

5 February 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT : The Dan Rather Tapes Story

I have looked at all of the stories and broadcasts that might be connected with the Dan Rather "tapes" story.

Actually, there have only been two distinct stories. Others have been rewrites.

The first story was the original exclusive Dan Rather CBS TV story on the 7:00 p.m. CBS Evening News of Tuesday, 29 January. The second one was on the CBS TV 7:00 p.m. Evening News of Friday, 1 February. It referred to "sophisticated hidden body tape machines". See Tab A and Tab B if you are interested.

After looking through all of the material there is only one clue as to the origin of these stories. The clue is the phrase "investigators believe" or "investigators are convinced".

This, combined with your comments about the senatorial phone call you got the morning before you talked to Dan Rather, leads me to suspect that what Rather is talking about when he says "investigators" is a member of the Ervin-Baker committee staff.

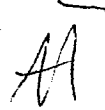
Considering that no one else has the story leads me to think that Rather is being spoon-fed this "exclusive". So far he has had two different angles. Maybe he is going to be fed a third and fourth. Of course, I may be wrong; he may be cleverly hornswoggling this out of someone. Both assumptions, of course, may be incorrect.

W-5
[unclear stamp]

As to what we can do about it: making any counter statement now would only dust the whole thing up again and give *everyone* a crack at the story.

HOWEVER: You may wish to speak to Senator Baker. Say that you have noticed that Rather is quoting "investigators"; you wonder whether someone is improperly feeding this stuff to Rather.

If a third or fourth angle dribbles out, I think we should be prepared with a background comment as soon as we learn what it is.



Angus MacLean Thuermer
Assistant to the Director

Attachment

cc: Mr. George Cary