

Registered Mail

August 12, 1975

Ms. Penelope Grenoble, Editor
Los Angeles Free Press
5850 Hollywood Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90028

Dear Ms. Grenoble:

This letter is in response to the distortions and outright falsities printed about me in the article written by William W. Turner, titled BANK ROBBER, 'MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE' LINKED TO JFK ASSASSINATION PROBE, which appeared in the July 25-31 edition of the Los Angeles Free Press

I request that the Free Press either print a retraction of such lies and distortions or publish this letter.

Mr. Turner, who spent ten years as a Special Agent of the FBI, is not unfamiliar to me. He has authored similar articles, both during my imprisonment in the United States and while I was detained in the German Democratic Republic, in which he knowingly and purposefully cited numerous lies about me. He has proved himself adept at putting words in my mouth and misquoting his sources of information to lend credence to his major untruths, a skill he probably developed while serving with the Bureau's intelligence-security division. His recent claims cause me to wonder whether or not he ever left the FBI.

Professor Richard H. Popkin, from whom Mr. Turner obviously collected much of his latest baloney, is a character that I feel should either purchase a hearing aid or consult a psychiatrist. Each of my so-called discussions with him (all but one occurred over the telephone) were duly tape-recorded by me, and if he did in fact assert what Mr. Turner has attributed to him about me, then he too is a liar.

I am listing the following facts in rebuttal to the Turner-Popkin fable:

The "papers" that I "carried" when arrested did not show me to be a "decorated hero of the Korean War," nor did they reveal anything about "a career in Army intelligence." More to the point, the documents found in my possession and under my control (some of which were returned to me only last year by the FBI) ensured my incarceration for a longer period than I had anticipated. They also guaranteed my being held practically incommunicado for many months (for eleven months I was not even permitted to read a newspaper), not to mention the curtailment of my most basic constitutional safeguards.

My contacts with Lee Harvey Oswald did not entail any "friendship,"

as Mr. Turner, th and the CIA damn well.

I have never stated to anybody, either verbally or in writing, that in 1963 I was an agent for the CIA, although in 1974 I did state, under oath, that I thought I had been functioning for the CIA during part of 1963. Mr. Turner is also aware that less than two months after President Kennedy's death FBI agents confronted me with their suspicion that I had "acted as an unregistered agent for a foreign power," inferring that I was a spy for one of the Cuban intelligence services (several years later the CIA, through one of its "former" case officers, accused me of having been a Soviet spy; still later, one FBI agent suggested that I had worked for the Chinese).

The registered letter that was dispatched at my instance to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover in September 1963 (not necessarily on the 13th) revealed sufficient details to warrant an immediate investigation (if not the arrest) of Lee Harvey Oswald and two Cuban refugees. I certainly "assumed" that some "action" would be taken by the FBI.

I was not the least bit "frantic" about anything in September 1963. I did not set foot inside the Republic of Cuba during that month. To my knowledge I have never talked to any "Castro aides." The main distinction between some American intelligence officers that I knew and hired killers were the procedures utilized in murdering their victims and/or the methods used to disassociate themselves and the U. S. government from their crimes.

I had no fear of being implicated "in the planned assassination" at the time of my arrest or prior thereto.

The two letters that I mailed to James L. Rankin, General Counsel to the Warren Commission, were not sent through "private channels." They were sent through proper jail authority.

I have never claimed that I "squirreled away a snapshot of (myself) with Lee Harvey Oswald taken in Jackson Square in New Orleans in 1963." I have never stated that I am "willing to surface and tell (any) story to Congress" or to anybody. And I did not reveal any details about Mr. Oswald to Professor Popkin that are "new" or unknown to the FBI.


Richard C. Nagell