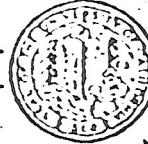


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SCHOOL OF LAW
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024

October 14, 1966

Mr. Gile
Mr. ...
Mr. ...
Mr. ...
Tele. ...
Miss ...
Miss ...

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Handwritten signatures and initials

Dear Mr. Hoover:

As a former assistant counsel to the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, I am deeply concerned about some of the books, attacking the Commission and the Report, that have been published recently. I have discussed this matter in some detail with Messrs. Ball, Griffin, Specter, Stern and Willens, all former members of the Commission Staff and with some of the members of the Commission. In view of the circumstances I have undertaken to write a book describing generally how the Commission conducted its investigation, reviewing the evidence relating to the basic conclusions reached in the Report and discussing the major criticisms that have been made of the Report and the work of the Commission.

I am sure that you will appreciate that your Bureau could be of immense help to me in this endeavor. In view of the seriousness of the matter, I hope you will be able to extend your cooperation.

I would propose at this juncture to submit specific questions which I think could be readily answered from the reports and other records in your possession. One of my basic problems is to find my way back into the materials with which we worked at the time the Commission was in operation. This involves to a great extent the matter of indexes to reports of your Bureau, many of which are now available to the interested public at the Archives. I must be frank to admit that even while we were working on the Report there were many times when the only way in which I could locate material in your reports was to ask your office for a reference to the specific reports involved.

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Let me indicate the kind of thing I have in mind: On pages 348-50 of his book "Rush to Judgment", Mark Lane comments on Commission Exhibit 5, a picture Oswald took of the rear of General Walker's house. You will recall that CE 5 depicts an automobile and that the picture has been mutilated in such a way as to obliterate the license plate of that automobile. After this came to my attention I examined Marina Oswald about it in Dallas on July 24, 1964, in an attempt to determine whether or not the hole was in the picture when it was first shown to her before the Commission. She said that it was not, but I do not believe that she was correct in that regard. That testimony is set forth at 11 Hearings 294-5.

I see three problems possibly raised by the hole in CE 5:

1. How did the hole get there?
2. Whose automobile is depicted in the picture?
3. What is the year of the license plate, i. e., during what year was the picture taken?

There is no problem with (3), since the date on which Oswald took the pictures of the area around General Walker's house was clearly established by the analyses of the stage of the construction of the building shown in the background of CE 2-P2. The report of this investigation is set forth in a report from your Dallas Office, dated May 22, 1964 (CE 1351).

As to (2), Robert Surrey indicated that the car appeared identical to one owned by Charles Klhr, a volunteer worker for General Walker. (CE 1953, p. 9) Surrey was not so certain about that when he testified before the Commission (5 Hearings 437), and General Walker did not recognize the automobile at all (11 Hearings 411-12).

At this time I am not able to determine whether you interviewed Klhr about this. I would very much appreciate information as to that and either a copy of the report of the interview, or a description of it so that I can obtain a copy from the Archives.

On the question of how the hole got there, I note that Detectives Stovall and Rose of the Dallas Police Department have indicated that the hole was in the picture when they recovered it from Ruth Paine's premises.

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All of this material was turned over to your Bureau on November 26, 1963. CE 5 also bears FBI Inventory Number 369. I would greatly appreciate having a copy of the inventory, or at the very least, an indication as to whether or not the inventory indicates the presence of the hole at the time the item was turned over to the Bureau.

Detective Stovall testified that he made a list of the property taken from the Paine residence on November 22, 1963, assisted by Detective Rose and two FBI agents (7 Hearings 190). Perhaps those agents, whose identity I am not able to determine, would recall the picture and whether the hole was in it at the time. Of course, if your inventory of November 26, 1963, indicates the presence of the hole, that coupled with the recollections of Stovall and Rose would strongly suggest that Oswald or his wife mutilated the picture.

I am sure that I will have additional questions as I proceed with my work. You might be interested in knowing that W. W. Norton & Co. have agreed to publish the book on which I am now at work. I understand that they are also publishing a book about your Bureau that is being written by the Overstreets.

Mr. Lane has announced to the press that he is suing me for slander. He was here at U. C. L. A. last Friday and refused my challenge to debate. He then held a press conference. I held one immediately following and charged that he was going around the country telling lies for money. I have not yet been served with any process.

It is clear to me that something must be done in response to the wave of criticism that seems to be building up on this matter. I hope that you will be able to give me the help I am asking.

Very truly yours,


Wesley J. Liebeler