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Mr Richard Bernabei
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Dear Dick,

The article on Givens Thanks for your letter of the 12th. Earlier this week I wrote to the editor of the Texas Observer to ask about the status of my manuscript, which had been accepted for publication in the fall of 1970, and indicating that I would have to submit it elsewhere if for any reason the Tex.Observer did not intend to proceed. I am now waiting for an answer. If it is negative, I will try The Nation or the New Republic, even if the prospects seem very dim. I will let you know when there are further developments.

I was a little startled to learn that you had sent a copy of the Givens article to Howard Roffman and that he intends to mention it in his ms. Not that the Givens article is secret; Harold Weisberg wrote and asked to see it, and I have sent him a copy to read. My first and foremost concern is to get it before the public, in the pages of the Tex.Obs. or elsewhere. Then it will be in the public domain and Howard Roffman or others can freely cite it. I would not be very happy with a footnote citing an "unpublished monograph" which means that a reader cannot go to the original source (except by writing to me to ask for a copy). But let us cross that bridge if and when we come to it.

I am interested to learn that Howard Roffman has completed the ms. of a book on the JFK assassination. As you perhaps know, I have checked for accuracy of citations and/or indexed a number of the critics' books (Inquest, The Oswald Affair, Six Seconds in Dallas, etc.). I would be glad to go over Howard's ms. and to do his index, if he so wished, on the same terms as for the other books.

Enclosed is a copy of this page which you can send to Howard so that he will have my views on the question of a footnote and also on his ms.

The Walker bullet My informant--let's call him Smith, since that in fact is his name--has written to me a number of times recently on the stationery of the Fensterwald "Committee to Investigate Assassinations". I am very impressed by his letters and by the quality of his research and the soundness of his judgment in general, on the assassination and on the Garrison circus and the like. But he has told me nothing about himself or his plans, if any, for further research and/or publication of his findings. Probably Harold Weisberg does know, since he and Smith seem to be in close touch.

However, it does appear to me from my correspondence with Smith that he is doing methodical and intensive research on the Walker bullet, and that your knowledgeable comments (letter of 12 April, bottom third of page 1 and page 2) might be helpful to him. I hope that I can safely assume that you would not object if I send him a copy of that part of your letter, after which the two of you can correspond directly with each other if you wish.

Smith has already been to the Archives to inspect the bullet. He describes it as very flattened, more so than is evident from the photograph CE 573. One side, not visible in the photo, is a light-gray or whitish amorphous material which resembles plaster more than metal; the other side, comprised of the greater part of the bullet jacket, is metallic and is clearly and unequivocally copper colored. (I am quoting or paraphrasing from Smith's description.) He made considerable effort to find the identifying markings supposedly made by Norvell, Day, Frazier and Nicel (see CE 1953 p 4, CE 3114, 3H 438-439 and 3H 502-503, respectively), using a magnifying glass, but found only Day's mark and one other obscure symbol alongside it which he could not identify. His tentative conclusion is that the bullet in the Archives is not the bullet actually recovered from Walker's house and that a substitution was made, deliberately or inadvertently, somewhere along the line.

Thanks for calling my attention to 3H 39 and Eisenberg's question to Frazier, which I had missed in my reading of the testimony since I did not underline that passage in my volume III.

I guess this covers all the points raised in your letter.
Best regards,

Sincerely,