

13 January 1971

Mr Fred Newcomb
4640 Noble Avenue
Sherman Oaks 91403

Dear Fred,

Thanks for sending me a copy of your interesting letter of the 7th to "Dear Larry". You remembered correctly that Oswald had read a book on Huey Long's assassination--not the one by Zinman, but as you will see from the enclosed excerpt from CE 2650, "The Huey Long Murder Case" by Hermann B. Deutsch, which may or may not pursue the same hypothesis (that Long was assassinated by his own guards). But even if the Deutsch book does make the same argument as Zinman and later Medford Evans, I am not clear on why that would cause you to re-think entirely your opinion of Oswald. You would have to take into account the whole gamut of his reading, so far as it is known to us (see my Subject Index, under "Oswald, L. H." sub-category "Books and Reading Habits").

I am glad that your letter to Larry caused me to take a look at CE 2650 because something jumped off the page and hit me in the eye which I had not noticed earlier--that is, according to this Secret Service inventory of books checked out by Oswald and dates of return of books to the New Orleans public library, Oswald returned four books on Thursday, October 3, 1963, although supposedly he had left New Orleans for Mexico City on the 25th or the 26th of September!!!

It is possible, of course, that he mailed the books back and that they arrived only on 10/3/63; or that he left the books with a friend or neighbor to return (but what friend? what neighbor?). The always-brilliant Secret Service did not even notice when they compiled the list of books given in CE 2650 that it included returns at a time when Oswald was no longer in New Orleans, nor did Liebeler or the other Commission lawyers notice that, apparently; in any case, there seems to be no indication that they attempted to account for the anachronism. (See in this respect the CEs which deal solely with the book Oswald checked out of the Dallas public library, "The Shark and the Sardines," discussed also in the book by Albert Newman.)

Another stupid and lazy element in the SS memo contained in CE 2650 is that for each known date of return of books, the date on which the books in question were borrowed is given as 14 days earlier. The SS made no attempt to correlate the return of a book or books with the check-out of different books. If you go by the CE 2650 column "Date would have been checked out" you get a dubious series of visits to the library by Oswald in which he either takes books out, or returns books, but not both. Since the normal practice of a regular user of the public library is to return books and borrow others in a single visit, I have written in a second column of presumed dates on which the books were borrowed, based on the closest earlier date on which other books were returned. On that basis, Oswald would have borrowed "The Huey Long Murder Case" on 6/5/63 (not 6/1/63) and kept it for ten days, together with the book "The Berlin Wall."

Analysis of the list of books in CE 2650 turns up some interesting items. For example, Oswald made 20 visits to the library, starting on an unknown date prior to 6/5/63 and ending on 10/3/63 (or 19 visits, ending on 9/23/63). On 9/23/63, despite the fact that he was planning to leave New Orleans for

Mexico City on 9/29-30/63, he nevertheless checked out four books (2 by Ian Fleming and 2 by Aldous Huxley). That is not what one normally would do just before a trip out of the country. Queer.

During the 19 or 20 visits Oswald borrowed and returned 34 books, of which 18 were spy and adventure stories or science fiction novels or anthologies; 8 were history works (including antiquity) or books dealing with politics; 4 might be classified as anti-Communist works; and 4 I am unable to classify, as the books in question are unfamiliar to me. One reason that I identify with Oswald is that he read a great deal of science fiction, and the same books that I have read or that I own (among which I strongly recommend "A Fall of Moondust" by Arthur C. Clarke). On the other hand, I have never read any Ian Fleming, who seemed to be a great favorite of Oswald as well as of JFK.

I have not seen the September 1967 article by Medford Evans in American Opinion but I do have his June 1968 article in the same magazine, titled "Abdication: The April Revolution," which deals with LBJ's abdication and RFK, saying that the "shall not seek and will not accept" speech was "a gun-in-the-back statement. And the gun is still there. LBJ is RFK's POW." Evans goes on to say: "He (RFK) really has something on Lyndon Johnson. And Johnson knows it. They understand each other."

Evans asks, what is the source of RFK's power over LBJ? what is the reason for RFK's appeal to the voters? and says that the answer to both questions is, the assassination in Dallas. LBJ is unpopular because of the "pervasive public abhorrence of the fact that he came to power as a result of the assassination of his predecessor." Evans next mentions MacBird; my "scholarly" book; Lane's controversial one, and Thompson's incontrovertible book, "ominous...and impressive as these voices were, they were but literature" until Garrison came on to the scene and indicted Clay Shaw. "Whatever Jim Garrison's motives, no one has helped Bobby Kennedy more."

He then goes on to predicate a secret partnership between RFK and Garrison. From my own intimate and continuous knowledge of the whole Garrison affair, and Mark Lane's opportunistic fictions at the moment of RFK's death notwithstanding, I know that the supposed secret partnership is utter nonsense. It never was. Evans' reasoning is logical, all right, but unfounded in fact and unrelated to reality. Still later, Evans alleges that "a leftwing writer like Sylvia Meagher" can name the President as an accessory after the fact in the murder of his predecessor, in a book, but it is different when a duly constituted DA like Garrison does so time after time "the President in question has got to fish or cut bait." Ultimately Evans concludes that JFK was a leftist and was liquidated by other leftists; the CIA is certainly not Rightwing; if RFK is loyal to his brother "the Left will purge Bobby also." (How vindicated he must have felt two months later! but the same prediction was made by me, in an article written just after the assassination of Martin Luther King, "Two Assassinations" published in Minority of One of (I think) June 1968.)

On the basis of this Evans article of June 1968, I would view his writings with extreme caution, even if in many ways his thinking corresponds with my own.

I had intended to make this a longer letter but we have just had an emergency here in the office (one of my colleagues become ill and had to be hospitalized) so I had better interrupt this now and get these pages into the mail to you.

Peace,

Sylvia