

3 April 1979

Mr. Mark Allen  
102 Shamrock Road # 16  
Charlottesville, VA. 22903

Dear Mark,

Thank you for your letter of March 29th and the clipping from the Washington Post of 12/1/63 with its reference to Charles Givens, which I have now read for the first time. On studying carefully the two paragraphs on Givens, I do not believe that it has any fundamental impact on my arguments as presented in the article "The Curious Testimony of Mr. Givens". The description is ambiguous and by no means coincides fully with the account given in the Warren Report. If this encounter represents the WR version, in which Givens returns to the sixth floor for his cigarettes, why did he give a wholly different version to the Dallas Police and the FBI on 11/22/63? I can think of two possible explanations for the story that appeared in the Washington Post: (1) it is an inexact and erroneous description of the encounter with Oswald described by Bonnie Ray Williams in 3H 168, in which Williams says "I think (Oswald) asked Charles Givens--I think he said, 'Close the gate on the elevator, or send one of the elevators back up.' ", which occurred at about 11:45 and not shortly after noon; or (2) by 12/1/63, Givens had already been influenced to change his 11/22/63 story and to implicate Oswald by alleging the later encounter to which Givens ultimately testified in April 1964 to Belin. In short, I am convinced that if the WR version was truthful and valid, it would have to coincide with Givens' 11/22/63 story to the police and the FBI --which it does not. Apparently Belin was not aware of the Washington Post story or chose not to use it in his own defense in his "rebuttal" to my article.

Your analysis of the Mexico City episode has given me a far clearer picture than I had gained from any other source. I think you make a compelling case for CIA deliberate misrepresentation, concealment, and destruction of vital evidence. Since you placed your analysis in the hands of the HSCA, it will be a real test of its motives and competence to see whether they made a real effort to respond to the questions posed in your analysis or if they allowed the CIA to stonewall it.

Best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Meagher