

5 June 1969

Dear Dick,

Thanks for your letter of the 27th of May and the copies of your correspondence with Tink Thompson. Thompson also sent me copies of your letter of 5/27/69 and his reply of 6/3/69. I am enclosing herewith a copy of my letter of today's date to Tink. It will suffice to indicate my position and since I am rushed for time just now I will not elaborate further at this time.

On the question of the Altgens photo: I believe that Penn Jones had some personal conversation with Lovelady about two years ago and I have a vague recollection that Penn told me at that time that Lovelady could not understand why the FBI had cited a short-sleeved striped shirt. If that is correct, it would suggest that Lovelady did not himself mislead the FBI. However, my recollection may be faulty.

Unfortunately, Penn Jones has not considered himself on speaking terms with me for about two years, because of my criticism of Garrison. If you wish to approach him yourself for any information he may be able to give you, you can write him at Box 70, Midlothian, Texas. He should be back by now from an extended trip in the Pacific.

Turning to the ammunition clip, I am not sure that your discovery of the photo in which it is visible jammed in the rifle completely disposes of the matter. The fact remains that the Commission was derelict in authenticating the clip and eliciting a record of all the pertinent facts. As you know, Melvin Eisenberg was the assistant counsel who had primary responsibility for the rifle evidence. I once had a conversation with him about the clip and I am sending you the notes I made at the time, which I will ask you to regard as absolutely confidential and not to use or circulate it in any way without my prior consent. It is very difficult for me to consider the matter closed after that incredible conversation and with all the gaps and ambiguities in the record, as detailed in my book, still unresolved. I think that the critics still have legitimate reason to question the clip, pending complete and conclusive information.

I would be sorry to miss seeing you if you get to New York this summer and perhaps I should mention my own plans. Most of the staff at my office are being assigned to Boston to work at the World Health Assembly, myself included. I will be in Boston from Saturday the 5th of July until at least the 1st of August.

Please stay in touch, and thank you for sharing your information with me. I think you did what had to be done, and I hope that I did the same, for my part.

Sincerely yours,