

2 April 1971

Mr Bob Smith  
Committee to Investigate Assassinations  
927 15th St NW #409  
Washington 20005

Dear Bob,

The memorandum prepared by you and Mike Clark on your visit to the National Archives contains a number of interesting and significant observations. The fact that the photographs of the Walker house are not typical in size and other characteristics of ordinary commercial processing would no doubt be viewed by spokesmen for the Warren Report thesis as evidence that Oswald himself processed the photos while still employed at Jaggars-Chiles-Stovall. On the other hand, I regard them in the light of the fact that the Dallas Police themselves took many photographs of the Walker house in April 1963 when summoned there to investigate the shooting of 10 April.

The logic of such a relationship becomes more evident when one considers the photographs of Oswald holding a rifle (CE 133-A and B). I have the impression from your comments that you may not be aware of the work done by Fred Newcomb of Los Angeles and what seems to me to be his conclusive demonstration that the two incriminating photos are composites and fabrications. They were ostensibly recovered during the authorized search and seizure of property in the Paine garage on 11/23/63 but the evidence and testimony as to both the discovery and the chain of possession of both sets of photographs is inclusive, at best, and suggests at least the possibility of police fabrication of incriminating photographic materials. If the photos of Oswald and rifle are illegitimate, as I believe from the totality of the available evidence augmented by Newcomb's work, then the photos of the Walker house must be no less spurious and their April 1963 vintage attributable to the Dallas Police--the sole party which acknowledgedly took photos at the site at that time.

On the other hand, I was dismayed to read your description of CE 5 and the traces on its back of lined yellow paper, since it provides one of the few items of evidence consistent with and supportive of Marina Oswald's account of the Walker shooting. She said, you will remember, that Oswald had placed his "plan of operations" on a yellow lined pad, which at her insistence he burned in the washbasin when he supposedly returned from his abortive intrusion into the Walker grounds. I wonder why the Commission did not cite this evidence in its attempt to implicate Oswald in the Walker affair? or in order to account for the mutilation of the photograph that presented them with such embarrassment? Perhaps the photo did not then carry the traces of lined yellow paper. I hesitate to suggest this since combined with my remarks about the photos of Oswald and rifle it summons up the picture of a veritable army of doctorers of evidence busily at work everywhere; but one must follow logic to its own destination, however "improbable" it may seem.

To balance my dismay about the lined yellow paper, I am heartened by your commentary on the Walker bullet and the absence of the identifying markings by three of four custodians whose marks should be present, which widens the scope for doubt of the authenticity of the bullet.

Best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Sylvia Meagher  
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*inconclusive*