

COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE ASSASSINATIONS

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to Mrs. Sylvia Meagher
302 W. 12th St.
New York, N. Y. 10014

subject _____

March 17, 1971

date _____

message

Dear Sylvia:

Your letter of 3/15/71 is most informative and helpful. Several of your observations had not been known to me; as a result, a whole flock of new associations have been triggered in my mind.

I am going to be out of town for a few days starting tomorrow, for which reason I shall defer preparation of a detailed reply to your letter until next week.

In the meantime, however, there are a couple of things I'd like you to think about:

1) The Walker-Thorsten conversation (first one) appears to have taken place early Saturday morning, Shreveport time, as indicated by Walker's own testimony and also by Thorsten's reference to "pajamas" (CD 1523b, p. 2). Yet, during this conversation, Walker suddenly learns something about John Abt (pp. 5-6). With the possible exception of Fritz (WR, p. 602), all other references to Abt (and there are many of them) place Oswald's request for Abt as having occurred during his Saturday AM interview, 10:30 AM or later, and first public disclosure (TV news) middle or late Saturday afternoon. So how did Walker learn his garbled version so early? Pipeline to DPD or FBI, perhaps?

2) I mentioned the FBI's prescience on the Walker ~~in~~ bullet to Harold Weisberg, who pointed out to me that the FBI might have been put on to it by noting the Oswald photos of the Walker residence. Apparently these photos were turned over to the FBI on 11/26, with lots of other signed _____ stuff. But, I haven't found any indication yet that the FBI knew it was the Walker residence until Feb. '64 (e.g., Ivan Lee). Can you help clarify? *Ed Smith*

reply

Dear Bob,

21 March 1971

My personal recollection, for what it is worth after this long lapse of time, is that I first heard of Oswald's request for Abt on Friday, sometime during the evening. Fritz in Volume IV pp 214-215 testified that it was during the first interrogation on Friday that Oswald said that he wanted Abt to represent him. See also CE 1937 and especially CE 2073, which tend to support the Friday emergence of Abt's name. Re (2) above, I do not agree with Harold. Had the FBI or the Dallas police recognized the photo of Walker's house (and here I am assuming for the sake of argument that it was a bona fide discovery in the Saturday afternoon search) I do not believe that they would have kept silent about it. My recollection (again, for what it is worth) is that it was only after Marina's revelations of 12/3/63 that the photos were identified as being of Walker's house. See CE 1351 p.4-6; also CE 1397 and CE 1953 p. 30. These suggest that it was date _____ signed _____ long after 12/3/63 that the photos were identified. Regards.

SENDER: Mail buff and pink copies with carbon intact.

RECEIVER: Reply, retain buff copy, return pink copy.