

15 March 1971

Mr Bob Smith
Committee to Investigate Assassinations
927 15th Street N.W. # 409
Washington, D.C. 22205

Dear Bob,

Many thanks for your note of the 8th enclosing various unpublished Commission documents on General Walker. The salient document for me, as I think it was for you also, is the recently declassified CD 1543. It provides corroboration for what has always been a certainty in my view, even without hard evidence--that Walker himself planted the first published allegation that it was Oswald who had taken a shot at him in April 1963. Significantly, he did not make this allegation during the first overseas phonecall on 11/23/63 but the next day, during the second phonecall, when Oswald had been murdered and could no longer confront the charge. Significantly also, it was after the Walker allegation was made by phone and then published in a German newspaper on about 11/26-27/63 but before Marina Oswald's sensational revelations of 12/3/63, that the FBI showed a sudden interest in examining the Walker bullet.

The bullet was in fact handed over to the FBI on 12/2/63. I wonder if the "undated note" would have been discovered and if Marina would have implicated Oswald in the Walker shooting if the FBI had found the Walker bullet to be a 30.06 as originally identified by the Dallas police, or otherwise incompatible with the 6.5 Mannlicher-Carcano rifle (assuming that there was no substitution for the authentic bullet recovered from Walker's residence, for which the chain of possession was scarcely foolproof, as I recall it).

It is always a special satisfaction when unpublished documents turn up which vindicate reasoning and conclusions reached long ago, on the basis of partial evidence and strong intuition. That was the case with regard to my discussion in Accessories of the supposed arraignment of Oswald (CD 5 page 400 is an FBI report by Hosty on information obtained from the office of Captain Fritz on 11/25/63 and states that "no arraignment on the murder charges in connection with the death of President Kennedy was held" inasmuch as Oswald had already been arraigned for the Tippit murder). The same was true for my inferences about the Charles Givens' testimony, which were decisively corroborated in various unpublished documents which I obtained in 1969 and cited in an article I submitted to the Texas Observer and which I still hope will be published. I am grateful to you for providing me with CD 1543 and the confirmation that it was Walker who first invented the story that Oswald had made the attempt on his life.

= A few comments on other of the documents you sent. CE 710 list of groups infiltrated by the Dallas police does not include CUSA, the Bernard Weissman-Larrie Schmidt outfit, which certainly was "active" at the time. For further discussion of the arrests made at the Trade Mart, see Volume XXI, page 577. Re: final paragraph of CE 710, see Accessories, pages 90-93.

CD 1316 b, page 3, refers to Joe Loria, Dallas restaurant operator. A very wild thought that struck me--any connection with the "Joe Loraine" mentioned in Volume XIX, page 511? Joe Loraine never turns up on the lists of Book Depository personnel or anywhere else in the testimony or documents; but there is an unnamed caterer who sold lunches to workers in the building, see Accessories, page 225. Probably nothing in this.

CE 1315 (c) (2), letter dated 5/20/64 from Brian to Gannaway via Revill: You perhaps know this already, but the car in the mutilated photo in CE 5 was identified as belonging to Charles F. Klihr, by Dallas police detective H. M. Hart, interviewed by the FBI on 5/21/64, see CD 1066 page 263. On 6/3/64 Robert Surrey also identified the car as Charles Klihr's, see CD 1245 page 104. Apparently, however, Klihr himself was not questioned on the matter. In any case, Wesley Liebeler wrote to Klihr at his Irving, Texas address, on 10/12/66, on stationery of the School of Law, UCLA, saying that he had been an assistant counsel to the Warren Commission and that his interest in some aspects of the assassination had been reawakened by some books about the Warren Report. Liebeler proceeds to describe the mutilated photo CE 5, and states:

I would appreciate it very much if you would let me know whether or not the FBI did interview you about this and if you were able to identify the car as your own. I enclose a copy of the exhibit in question so that you can determine now whether it is your car or not, if the FBI did not interview you about it. As this matter is of some importance to me, I hope very much that you will be able to extend your cooperation.

Whether Klihr replied, and what he said if he did reply, is not known to me. I obtained the copy of Liebeler's letter some years ago from a researcher who had been working at the Archives, where I presume he ran across it.

CD 1395, page 95, explains that a police CID representative contacted the Walker group "and, as a result, the demonstration did not materialize." How easily they were discouraged and persuaded! Did the CID also contact the Indignant White Citizens, and were they less vulnerable to suggestion? Or did the Walker group cancel their plans, and Walker himself depart Dallas on 18, 19 or 21 November, for reasons unrelated to police persuasion? Mme. Nhu had been Walker's house guest earlier in the month, I believe, and feeling must have run high in the wake of the assassination of Diem and Nhu, on the part of the would-be demonstrators. Yet they folded up their tents and slipped quietly away, to oblige the Dallas police. Strange!

These are my comments, for whatever they are worth. I can see from your annotations that you have developed an authoritative grasp of the complex and convoluted documentation in the case, which is the best foundation for discoveries of genuine importance. Do keep in touch and if you ever have something to discuss urgently, I am usually at home in the evening and you can reach me at 212-Chelsea 2-4293. Again, my sincere thanks for the documents.

Kind regards,