

29 January 1969

Lear Helen,

I greatly enjoyed your letter of the 26th and all the interesting enclosures. I won't encourage you to send the tapes of Annie P. Up until very recent days, my policy was to listen to everyone and anyone rather than risk brushing off the one person who might have real and valuable information. But after the latest in a very long series of claimants to have hot information, I am beginning to wear out.

The latest was a man who called a few weeks ago, charming voice, very marked French accent, and who told me at interminable length--literally hours on the phone just to hear the introductory and background remarks--his theory that Oswald was "duplicating" him. It seems that he is half-Japanese, was working in Japan, tried to renounce his U.S. citizenship, married a Japanese girl; was not relieved of his citizenship, returned here in 1963, took a job as a guide to a group of French engineers visiting Chicago. Both JFK and General Walker were in Chicago at the same time, which included the day in March on which Klein's Sporting Goods mailed the Carcano rifle to Lailas. He is convinced that a plan to assassinate JFK that day in Chicago did not come off, that he was marked to serve in Oswald's role. The longer he talked, the less rational his thesis became, and when he called again the next night, I asked him not to pursue this and not to call me again. (Maybe my French/Japanese caller was only Ed Horsey doing one of his great impersonations? Except that he did give a local phone number and address and I could hear his little ones squawling in the background. Guess he was the real thing--real nut, well-intentioned and believing his own fantasy.)

I have read Paris Flammonde's book and my review of it will appear any week now in The Commonweal magazine (lay Catholic weekly). My review is totally negative, regretfully, despite Flammonde's generous comments on my work in his book, because it is a completely uncritical and often inaccurate, badly researched paean to Garrison. Truly exasperating and indiscriminate praise and promotion of a blatantly dishonest vaudeville.

I cannot take the time to write in detail about the recent (and on-going) big flap in re the autopsy photos and X-rays. Suffice it to say that Garrison was publicly screaming for the photos but privately obstructing and sabotaging his representatives in Washington, in court, who were not permitted to present the evidence or witnesses to clinch the case and get the material released. Why? My best information suggests that Garrison panicked when it appeared that the last roadblock to the Shaw trial had been removed, that he wanted desperately some excuse to delay or drop the trial, now that it was finally time to put up or shut up, and decided to get poor Alcock to take the onus by his public announcement that there could be no trial without the photos/X-rays. I believe that that was his strategy; but the gambit backfired when local and press reaction to it in New Orleans boiled over. He therefore dropped his announced move for a continuance (a postponement) of the trial and meekly allowed proceedings to start. We should soon see just what kind of "case" he has--nothing more than the confabulating Russo, and a few more like him, I am pretty sure.

Forgot to mention: the jacket of Flammonde's book says he is now working on a book on UFOs. With "friends" like that, we don't need enemies. Needless to say, the Condon Report belongs right next to the Warren Report on any thinking-man's bookshelf. I have not yet found or read any of the books you mention, Helen, and I haven't time for the British FSR (with which I am or was familiar, in the days before 11/22/63). I am delighted that Kerry and his wife join us in cat-loving and cat-keeping: it is a badge of honor. Am being paged, so will reserve for a separate letter any comments on the copies of letters between you and Kerry, if any, and on the UFO RESEARCHER. Warmly,

cc Kerry