

22 January 1971

Dear Mary,

The reason that we got such differing results in analyzing CE 1117 is that we gave different interpretations to the column heading "Card Shows Return Date". Whereas I took it to signify the dates on which books were actually brought back and returned by Oswald, you take it to mean the dates on which the books were due to be returned. You may well be correct, and the more I think about it, the more likely it seems that you are, and that I have misinterpreted the heading. I am writing to Fred and also to Harold to clarify the matter in the light of your evaluation. Thanks for having a real good head on your shoulders!

I may have met Allan Swartz in Los Angeles but I don't have any recollection of it, it was so long ago and he was probably among a large group of strangers whom Maggie invited over one night to meet several visiting critics and myself. Despite my total alienation from Maggie as a result of our extreme differences on Garrison (we have not been in touch since the end of 1967), I would not be fair if I did not disavow a comparison between her and Lifton. She is a much more solid, balanced person--there is really no comparison. I know for a fact that she did make heroic efforts to get her work published, when I was still close to her, and I assume that if she abandoned the attempt it was because her material became out-dated and came before the public in the books of other critics.

About the declassified CDs: I will be happy with any arrangement that is convenient for you, PROVIDED that I pay my way in full. Mary, I do hope that you will cash the check I sent you. Anything less than paying my full share would make me really unhappy. If it does not come to the amount that I sent you, okay, but let me pay half of whatever your own costs are, plus postage of course. Probably the simplest arrangement would be for me to get a complete set of the CD's to keep in my own files, but I will be content with reading and returning a set, or any other arrangement that places the least possible burden on you.

I had completely forgotten about Oswald's letter to the New Orleans library until you called it to my attention. Yes, I do remember the checks and the FBI's inability to authenticate his signatures endorsing them. The questions you raise--about someone else returning his books or cashing his checks--are salient and important, and cannot be resolved on the basis of the WR evidence. I agree with your comments on the August applications for work and also on the seemingly erratic periods for which Oswald retained particular books he had borrowed. Let's both give this subject further thought in the light of the newly-declassified documents, when we read them, which are likely to deal with New Orleans as well as other aspects of Oswald's activities.

About the summer--I am so complimented that you should suggest a second visit that I am tempted. I haven't really given much thought yet to summer. I have a cousin in Israel whom I have never met, who began to correspond with me when my father died, three years ago, and she has been harping on my visiting her. I am running out of alibis. I'll keep in mind your very gratifying and hospitable suggestion, Mary, but I probably won't decide anything until much later. Much love, and many sincere thanks, for everything,