

9 November 1969

Dear Paul,

I have now read carefully your dossier on 544 Camp Street and I congratulate you on this successful and important research, and on the persistence which finally elicited from the Attorney General the Quigley copy of the Corliss Lamont pamphlet.

The main questions that arise are, as you have pointed out, why there was no pre-assassination investigation of 544 Camp Street; why the lack of such investigation was in effect concealed from the Warren Commission; why in December 1963 the FBI was at such pains to foreclose any SS investigation of the printing of the FPCC literature; and, what if anything will the Justice Department do in reaction to your letter of 9/16/69 to Mitchell?

Re: CD 87, page 2, last paragraph and top of page 3: I am delighted that the FBI in December 1963 considered it unlikely that Oswald had a rifle or the rifle while in New Orleans. I still think so and believe that there is no conclusive proof that he ever had, held, carried, or used the C2766 Carcano.

On page 3 of CD 87, paragraph 3, lines 3-5: I was not aware that Oswald was identified at one printing shop. No, I take that back--he was identified from a police photo, six months after the fact, see CE 1411.

As I may have written you in the past (and if I have, forgive me for repeating myself), I have always been unable to rid myself of a lingering scepticism ~~and~~ about the circumstances which led to Quigley's interview of Oswald on 8/9/63---specifically, about the supposed request by Oswald to see an FBI agent. About a year ago I wrote a piece weighing the evidence for and against such a request by Oswald, copy of which I enclose herewith.

Shortly after writing this paper, I finally heard from Tom Bethell that he had acted on my long-standing request that he try to learn from Lt. (now Capt.) Martello whether or not Oswald had asked to see an FBI agent, as the WR said but as Martello himself had never stated explicitly in his testimony or reports. Tom wrote that he had finally had a talk with Martello, that Martello had unhesitatingly and firmly confirmed that Oswald had made the request to see an FBI agent, and that Martello was surprised to be told that his testimony did not mention such a request by Oswald.

I guess Tom's report should have closed the matter; yet, I remain somehow unsatisfied and un reassured, still convinced instinctively or emotionally that it just does not ring true. I like Martello (if that is the right word), for his "I would have put my head on a chopping block" testimony against Oswald's capacity to commit the assassination, yet I find myself still believing that Martello called the FBI on his own initiative, and won't admit it. Please let me know any thoughts you have on this puzzle of who really called Quigley.

(Enclosure)

Sincerely,