

2599 LeConte Ave.  
Berkeley, CA 94709  
(415) 845-4669  
April 3, 1977

Rep. Christopher J. Dodd  
(Attention: Jay Levin or Bruce Gwinn)  
429 Cannon  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Dodd,

Enclosed for your information is the material on the "babushka woman" which has been published by Penn Jones and Gary Shaw.

From what I have seen in press reports, when the staff briefed the Committee about this witness on March 17, only three aspects of her story were mentioned: that she filmed the assassination, that two federal agents later obtained her film, and that Jack Ruby introduced her to "Lee Harvey Oswald of the CIA."

I have not yet seen the full text of the staff briefing, but it apparently does not mention various other allegations reportedly made by this witness, which all tend to cast doubt on her story. According to Jones and Shaw,

\* The babushka woman and her husband (a crime syndicate figure who was murdered in 1970) met for two hours with Richard Nixon in Miami during the 1968 Presidential campaign.

\* Oswald frequently visited Ruby's Carousel Club.

\* David Ferrie was at the Carousel so frequently that she took him to be the assistant manager. (Incidentally, one of Ruby's assistants, Larry Crafard, apparently did resemble Oswald enough to be the source of several reports that Oswald was at the club.)

\* One of the Federal agents who asked for and obtained her film was the New Orleans based FBI agent Regis Kennedy.

\* Jack Lawrence (of Downtown Lincoln-Mercury) spent a lot of time at Ruby's club and ran around with George Senator, Ruby's roommate.

It may be that the babushka woman now denies having made some of the allegations attributed to her by Jones and Shaw; in any case, this background information seems important in any evaluation of her current testimony.

Unfortunately, it is hard to avoid the impression that the Committee staff deliberately played down the parts of this woman's story which give her testimony very low inherent credibility.

Apparently, the Committee report released on March 28 says only that "the Committee staff has spoken with a witness who has never been previously interviewed who stated that in November 1963, prior to the assassination of President Kennedy, the witness was personally introduced to Lee Harvey Oswald by Jack Ruby." (This is what I was told; I have not yet seen the report.) As was the case with several of the other leads in this report, there is no indication that the allegation has been around for some time, and has been published.

It is, of course, possible that this one part of the woman's story is true, and that the babushka woman is indeed "the most important living witness" in the Kennedy case, but I rather doubt it.

I would appreciate a copy of the March 28 report, the March 17 transcript, and any other material the Committee has recently released.

Sincerely yours,

*Paul L. Hoch*

Paul L. Hoch

Enclosures:

"Forgive my Grief IV" (Penn Jones), p. 155, 158

"Cover-Up" (J. Gary Shaw and Larry R. Harris), pp. 51-4, 56