

11 May 1966

Dear Dave,

Congratulations on the offer from Ramparts and best wishes for success and satisfaction if you decide to go ahead with it. I am really glad that Ramparts will have the benefit of your energy and expertise; as you say, they are woefully uninformed about the case. Tell me more, when you write again, about the ex-FBI agent Turner: I assume that he is in fact "ex"? Also, I should be especially interested to hear about the Ramparts/Liebeler meeting, if it takes place.

If you do go to Dallas, Dave, and if you have time while you are there, you may wish to follow up the cryptic reference in Seth Kantor's handwritten notes to "501 Elm" (I believe that is the address) as the place where the photos of Oswald-with-rifle were developed. I have always been extremely curious about that, especially since it seems reasonable to infer that Kantor got the information from the Dallas police, not from his own leg-work. Also useful would be photographs and drawings if possible of the police building, showing all the means of entrance. The WR and the H&E are very weak on that, probably on purpose, and I have never been able to satisfy myself that I had an adequate mental picture of the lay-out.

About the anatomically-impossible arm in the LHO/rifle photo: Yes, it does appear to the eye to be extremely deformed or distorted. But: I burned my fingers, shortly after the H&E came out, because I was deceived by perspective in a photo of the sixth-floor window (the twin pipes). I was so insistent and arbitrary that my humiliation was all the greater when I stumbled into another photo later which proved my assumptions utterly wrong. I was also misled by perspective in the Altgens ("doorway") photo, which I could scarcely believe corresponded with frame 255 because the car seemed so close to the TSB. Therefore, I am inclined to be reticent about the left-arm in CE 749--there is a play of light and shadow which may be very deceptive, and one legitimate objection to the idea of superimposition is the twin photo, in which the same newspapers are held in a "normal" arm. What reason could there have been, then, to superimpose the left arm with newspapers in hand on the CE 749 photo?

My feeling about the LHO/rifle picture in general is that we have one strong internal inconsistency--which is the shadow under the nose--and that tossing in the arm, the ring, etc. is an "overkill" which only succeeds in destroying the impact of the nose shadow. I would have to agree with Ray that while a one-step fabrication (superimposition of the head) is not implausible, the hypothesis of multiple superimpositions of limbs, head, papers, weapon or scope, etc., taxes credulity rather brutally. That is not to say that it is absolutely impossible--only that it would be enough to prove one fakery if the objective is to demonstrate that the photo is a fabrication.

On the doorway photo--I am grateful for your offer to send me the Lovelady pictures and will be very glad if you can send them as soon as possible. I will of course pay any costs by return mail. I am surprised to hear that Turner finds a strong resemblance between Lovelady and LHO, because others who have seen the Lovelady photos taken by the FBI find rather little resemblance.



It was the doorway picture that set off Vince's false alarm. He made an assumption that anyone else might have made, falling into the trap of trusting the WC on its identification of exhibits. I have learned that it is fatal to assume that they are accurate even on such a purely mechanical matter. Fortunately, we discovered before it was too late that the "Yarborough Exhibit A" label was attached to two different things--rather, to the whole and also to one of its parts. Had that not been realized in time, the results would have been disastrous beyond description, in that no later attack on the WR, however solid, would have been given any attention other than sneers and snickering.

During the hectic few days when Vince's discovery seemed conclusive there was a lot of excitement and cross-country telephone traffic involving some rather naked predatory and unethical gambits, which, as you say, aroused my ire. However often I find myself disillusioned and disgusted by the tactics of some of our "colleagues" (i.e., Jones Harris putting gratuitous spokes in Mark Lane's wheel--if that is the correct figure of speech--which Jones told me himself, or Mark Lane attempting theft and blackmail and topping it with outright plagiarization, all of which I know to be absolute fact), I still can't take it in stride. Perhaps I am too "naive" or puritan, or as Eisenberg once charged "intolerant." Well, if I am going to shrug off dirty-pool within our own camp, I might as well shrug off the WR too. If we ourselves resort to self-seeking cut-throat and dishonest methods, what moral right will we have to attack the WC? Of course, commercial stakes inevitably have entered the picture, but they cannot be allowed to take precedence over what I know was the over-riding purpose that motivated most of us when we got into this case.

However, as you and Welsh correctly surmised, regardless of my feelings about the specific incident, now happily subsided (the incident, that is), I will always be ready to do anything in my power to ensure that material presented to the public is unassailable and responsible.

As a matter of fact, Welsh called me at my office yesterday and we had a long talk about the August issue. I too have reservations about the peripheral deaths and misadventures, because the evidence is extremely tenuous and in some cases unauthenticated, but from Ramparts' viewpoint, it is a good snare for public attention. The head shot, on the other hand, is a very powerful opener, in my opinion; and if they decide to go ahead with that, I hope that they will consider quoting Thomas Stamm on the 313 shot as seen in the Zapruder film projected as a motion picture. I suggested that to Welsh, as he may mention to you. I believe that you and Lillian Castellano both have copies of Stamm's article on the Zapruder film.

I guess I ought to get back to work now; anyway, I think I've covered most of the points. Again, congratulations on your offer from Ramparts, please let me know how things go. As ever,

Sylvia