

4 May 1969

Dear David,

Although I finished reading the three sets of documents some time ago, I have not written because I was half-expecting a reply to my letter of 4/9/69 re: Givens. But you have undoubtedly been too busy to write (this is no reproach, as I think your work on the book should take precedence over all other matters).

I gather that there is nothing new in re: Newcomb vs Marcus. It is too bad that you had to spend valuable time on that great mess. Newcomb should never have started this whole deal with Ray unless he could finish it without calling on many others for rescue. You certainly made a gallant effort but I suspect you will have small thanks for it. But at least you learned how futile it is to call on people like Salandria with the expectation that they will respond with intelligence, guts, or concern for right and wrong. Not that "right and wrong" are very clear-cut in this whole affair --Newcomb tried to trick Lamarre, Ray Marcus then did exactly the same thing to Newcomb. Thank heavens none of this got into the press, imagine how pretty a scandal it would have been, the cherry on Garrison's sundae.

As I wrote you earlier, I was vastly excited about the Charles Givens part of the Ball/Belin report, and would like more than anything to see Belin confronted with his criminal role in this affair. May I assume that you will include this very important evidence in your book? Also, I am sure that you caught and will include the business of the fibers on the rifle (some of which were identifiable but could not be identified with any of Oswald's garments, which was completely suppressed from the WR and from Stombaugh's testimony). Another point of considerable interest and potential importance was the piece of skull found on the back seat of the car.

If and when you can xerox more of these documents, I am ready to purchase them, as before.

How is your work progressing? Do you have definite plans yet for your visit to New York? I may not be able to go through with my offer to take you to Bobbs-Merrill, for reasons beyond my control or anyone else's. My editor, who is also a very, very dear and close friend, is seriously ill.

I was very tempted to phone you today instead of writing but I did not dare let myself place the call, knowing how much there is to say once we get started and not able at the moment to take a huge phone bill in stride. I hope you did get to read Epstein's maddening article in the NY Times Magazine 2 weeks ago. You will note that your extremely fine critique of his New Yorker piece affected him not at all.

By the way, do you know those characters in San Diego who put out a newsletter, the Assassination Inquiry Committee? Their post-Shaw trial drivel is really preposterous---according to these geniuses, onward and upward with The Great Garrison, absolved of any real misdeeds and as heroic as before, though they cannot really conceal completely their distress and dismay. I am writing them to cheer up, that Garrison may do better on his next case--the prosecution of five SUNO protesters for flag desecration.

All the best,
As ever,