

11 November 1969

Mr. Mark Houpt  
307 South Delaware Street  
Mt. Pleasant, Ohio 43338

Dear Mark,

As I explained in my book, there is no proof that the bullet found on the stretcher is identical with the bullet designated CE 399, for the reason that it was not marked for identification nor a strict chain of possession maintained. There is at least a theoretical possibility of substitution somewhere along the line. But even if CE 399 is the bullet found on the stretcher, I reject as preposterous the official claim that it inflicted all (or indeed, any) of the non-fatal wounds sustained by the two victims, since CE 399 is virtually intact, undistorted, and lacked any blood, tissue or weave pattern imprint on its surface. For these reasons I cannot dismiss the probability that this bullet CE 399 was planted evidence.

Oswald's legal rights were grossly violated, first by a steady stream of highly prejudicial and often false information given to the press by Dallas officials, which would have made it very difficult to empanel an impartial jury. Second, by the fact that he was without legal counsel throughout his custody, and that lawyers from the Dallas Civil Liberties Union were turned away when they tried to see Oswald, with misleading statements if not outright deception on the part of the Dallas police who turned them away. As I am not a lawyer, I do not know what effect these and other violations of his legal rights might have had if Oswald had lived to come to trial. My personal belief is that he would not have sought to evade trial, despite any valid grounds for circumventing prosecution, but would have used the opportunity to establish his innocence.

No one can say whether a new investigation even now would uncover the truth, fully and conclusively, about the assassination of President Kennedy. One hopes that this would be possible, despite the passage of time and the death of many key witnesses. But there is no doubt in my mind whatever that what can be done, and in fact has already been done but not acknowledged, is to demonstrate that the Warren Report is untenable and fraudulent, and that Oswald assuredly is not guilty as charged.

I assume that you are in your middle teens, and I think that there is little that you can do at the moment. There is little that the other critics and I can do, in the present climate of indifference on the part of the public and non-cooperation on the part of responsible officials and also on the part of the press in general. What you can do is to study all the evidence and, above all, to develop your own capacity for independent and impartial judgment, accepting neither the Warren Report or the critical works on their face but examining all the facts critically and sceptically, in the hope that the future will bring the opportunity to put your objectivity and expertise to the service of truth and long-delayed justice.

Yours sincerely,