

23 December 1969

Dear Tink,

Thompson

My thanks for your letter of the 16th, which crossed with mine of about the same date on the subject of Garry's case. (The copy I ordered has not yet come; you will have to be patient.) In the interim, I got a note from Liften, who had been reading Garry's and wrote solely to comment on the "arm" of the bullet fragment from Connally's "arm." Which reassures me on my insight.

I do appreciate the clipping on Fensterwald, which you so graciously assumed I had not seen. I haven't met him personally but from our phone conversations I share your impression of his personal qualities and of the prospects of his turning up anything at all meaningful. He is another "intuitiver" much like Dick Sprague, Trent Gough, and others who plunge ahead in every which direction in the romantic hope of somehow stumbling on the ultimate answers, without having ever really done the painful, methodical basic work. Sprague, incidentally, just sent me a check in payment of an old bet, acknowledging that he was wrong when he insisted that one of the Dealey Plaza tramps was really Edgar Eugene Bradley.

Last week I had a visit from an engineer, Stanley Primmer, a young chap who had been working on the west coast with Paul Hoch and also with Weisberg but then was on a job in Brazil for two years. Now he is resuming his work on the case and although he is quite intelligent and fairly well informed on everything that has been going on, he tends to invest invaluable time and effort in chasing will-o'-the-wisps, ~~mmmm~~ checking out with infinite patience and persistence allegations and "clues" which on their face do not merit follow-up. And last night I had a phoned call from another unknown who apparently is "assisting" Gary Scheener by searching for some supposedly sinister contradiction between Kerry Thornley's testimony and his book on Oswald--talk about flogging a dead horse!

I completely agree with your evaluation of the fundamental guilt for Senguy and I agree also that LBJ, Bundy, Hush et al will escape scot-free, so that Nixon and Laird et al may do the same. It is no fun being an American, period.

It is quite true that Arneni took a decent and outspoken position on the Marcus/Salandria assaults on you. He cannot be faulted either on the position he took on the WR at all stages, nor on the outstanding political and moral issues on which he wrote during the ten years or so that he published TWO. It is exactly that which has agonized me all year, since I stumbled across evidence of his unbelievable hypocrisy and swindling of friends and supporters. How does one reconcile these unrecconcilables? Can a man be utterly unprincipled in personal and financial matters and also at the same time have uncompromising integrity on political questions and on the Vietnam war, above all, where his views and his actions as well have been irreproachable? It is a paradox and a dilemma which disturbs me greatly and which I have tried to explore with his wife, but without gaining any real insight.

We get snow warnings here but so far no snow. I understand that it may be due to the veritable shield of hot pollutants which blankets the city. Gosh, I do miss you, Tink. Another nine months to go, I think, before your return. It is a good time to be away from this grim and frightening country. All my love,