

(Stamm)

28 December 1969

Dear Tom,

As I have not been able to reach you at your home number, I assume that you and May are away for the weekend or the holidays, enjoyably I hope. Let me wish you a happy new year in which our hopes for peace and justice will finally be fulfilled.

Thanks for the various items you have sent me recently, including the Paul Scott syndicated column on Oswald's "last letter." This is an up-dated but almost identical version of a column by-lined Allen & Scott which was published in November 1967. There is considerable reason to suspect that the whole thesis was planted with Scott by sources in government intelligence who do not give up the ghost of convincing the public that the Dallas assassination was a Castro and/or Communist plot.

But the entire thesis of the Scott column is invalid and invidious. It depends on an expurgated version of a CIA memorandum from which two key sentences have been deleted without any indication of elision, which is indisputably a piece of conscious, deliberate deception and all the more inexcusable because it is the deleted sentences which render the whole thesis null and void.

The CIA memorandum has been "declassified" for more than five years and one need not travel to the Archives to read it, since it appears in entirety in CE 3126 (H & E Volume XXVI page 790). It contains the following two sentences which without indication were deleted by the Scott column in 1967 and in 1969:

"Azque had been in Mexico for 18 years and it was known as early as September 1963 that Azque was to be replaced. His replacement did arrive in September."

These sentences remove all mystery from Oswald's "foreknowledge" of Azque's replacement. Even if the excised version of the CIA memorandum was planted with Scott, he must be held responsible for failing to check the text personally (assuming that he did fail to do so) and for disseminating a false and malicious and dangerous account calculated to influence public sentiment in a wholly unwarranted manner.

When I received a copy of the original column, in December 1967, I did not write to Allen & Scott, in accordance with my usual practice, partly because of my father's illness and death, and partly because of an earlier incident which suggested that Scott had no interest in accuracy or truth. That incident involved an Allen & Scott column of February 1967 which created the distinct impression that my Subject Index was a CIA-commissioned, CIA-financed work. Despite intervention at that time by then-Congressman Kupferman, on my behalf, an assurance by Scott that he would publish a clarification absolving my Subject Index of any CIA sponsorship was never honored.

I am considering whether I should nevertheless now write to Scott about the Azque matter, for the record if for no other useful purpose. Perhaps I will. Is there any professional group of press people or columnists with whom a complaint might be registered, do you know? I think Scott will do nothing about a letter from an individual which can be safely ignored, but would think twice if copies of the letter were going to organizations or agencies which might embarrass him. What do you think?

My very close friend and editor of Accessories, Bob Ockene, succumbed to leukemia at the age of only 35 early this month. This is the most terrible loss to me personally and also to all of us who have been in the struggle against the WR and in the peace movement. Bob was a founder of Resist and of YIP and a quiet leader in the whole peace campaign.

Sincerely,