

Weisberg

4/4/78

Dear Sylvia (HR, PH and JL, too)

Please excuse the haste and the probably worse typing. My regular machine is in the shop and I'm using a duplicate of the Agee one I've had for more than 40 years!

I've not yet read the rest of today's mail because Jim is pressing me to rush along with much FOIA work. But I want to go farther with your helpful 3/30/78.

By now you, Paul and Jim have copies of a memo from Howard on the date on the picture, with copies of the Epsteinker and McM treatments.

I want to go back farther, with an initial stop at 4/19/63. The FBI records I have confirm the DeM departure date of 4/19. However, Priscilla claims that deM claims he found this stuff in their "luggage" when they returned. This explains her contrivance of a May date for what is clearly April and was for the Oswalds impossible in May. Like the Epsteinker she fakes her case. (Assuming the accuracy of he quotes in the note there is no reason to believe as she suggests that the language relates to the inscription, which is hardly a "message.")

Now I would like to take you back to Whitewash The First. In it I reported that the cops did indeed get two negatives and listed them, with the Commission and the FBI pretending otherwise. I think we had later correspondence about this. It interested me much. For a while I was able to carry this farther, in the Archives and in Dallas.

The reports I have from the Archives may well have been added to by now and I do not recall how I have them filed. So I believe someone who can find the time might consider asking the Archives for all available records relating to these pictures.

They were spread around widely by the cops, by giving them out and by leaving many copies unattended. I know at least one reporter who found a big bunch of prints drying in I think he told me Lt. Day's office.

He could have lifted some. I don't recall if he did but he could have without admitting it because he found nobody there and the place wide open.

I don't recall if Howard made the point but if he did I agree that so close to the Walker shooting neither Lee nor Marina would have made cracks about it, especially not if Marina believed Lee was involved.

But is Priscilla's account credible for 4/19 - that after getting the picture the deMs were silent about it? Another reason for her May contrivance.

On the other hand, there is no reason to believe that in May the Oswalds had an address for the deMs, in Haiti.

These and other considerations get back to the suspicion of a plant of the picture. Anyone with access to what the deMs left behind and a copy of the picture could have done it. Officials certainly could have. With motive in the early Garrison days. That there was a plant is easier to believe than any of these other accounts.

Then there is the different descriptions of the same inscription. It is not only the presence/absence of the terrier sketch. Different direct quotes. From one copy?

I find it not easy to believe that some may were so silent over all of or any of this for so long.

My greatest present interest in this is Epsteinker and the CIA. This also means anything you may hear about Epsteinker's access to CIA records, Nosenko, etc. There is now the relevance I projected some time ago. I do not know the exact details but our presentation of "new evidence" at the appeals level and the government almost hysterical opposition to it in the executive session transcripts case is going to be resolved, possibly by trial. We can depose CIA people in another case. If the

district judge takes the very strong hint from the appeals court we'll have a trial or be able to take depositions. He is to do whatever he does in time for oral arguments before the appeals court in its June sitting. At issue is what the CIA made available to Epsteinker and denied to me, particularly about the 6/23 session. (On this note that E. gives a wrong date, to make it appear as a result of what Helms told Warren rather than following whatever the Commission decided the day before.) So we can use any info that can be used as a basis for asking questions as well as for establishing fact. Thus anything Ep. says can be useful. Hastily,

Heard