

August 4, 1966

Mr. H. Mewhinney
The Houston Post
Houston, Texas

Dear Mr. Mewhinney,

Your recent columns on the Warren Report were excellent and useful.

However, I should like to take the liberty of commenting on two matters discussed in your July 25th column: "Where Oswald Got Ammo."

You state that presumably Oswald got ammunition for the 6.5 Carcano rifle from Klein's, although there is no record. Actually the FBI determined on December 7/1963 that no ammunition was sold to Oswald by Klein's, whether under his own name or in the name of Hidell or variations thereof (Commission Exhibit No. 2957, Volume XXVI, page 437, HEARINGS & EXHIBITS). The fact that Klein's was ruled out as the source of the Western Cartridge Co. ammunition is borne out by the fact that both the Dallas Police and the FBI canvassed shops in Dallas in an unsuccessful attempt to determine purchase of the cartridges. In March 1964 the FBI canvass of retail shops in the Dallas/Irving area revealed that only two shops had ever carried WCC 6.5 rifle ammunition; but one of the shops had relocated in Dallas (from Carrollton) only on November 1, 1963, and the owners of both establishments were certain that they had never seen Oswald nor sold ammunition to him (Commission Exhibit No. 2694, Volume XXVI, page 63).

The Warren Report maintains silence on the question of Oswald's purchase of ammunition for the rifle, since such purchase could not be established by the investigative agencies. The Report states merely that the WCC ammunition is available by mail-order and in "a few gunshops" (WR 555), without mentioning that the only two gunshops that carried it, in the Dallas/Irving area, did not sell any to Oswald. The Warren Report elsewhere states that the ammunition was made recently and is manufactured currently by the WCC (WR 646). That is not true, according to the Western Cartridge Company, as indicated in CE 2694 (mentioned above) on page 12 of the Exhibit, and as corroborated to me in a letter from the Assistant Sales Service Manager of Winchester-Western in a letter of April 20, 1965 stating that production had ended after World War II and that "the reliability of such ammunition would be questionable today."

I made several attempts to ascertain from the Commission's counsel and from its Historian the authority for the statement about current production of the ammo; my letters remained without any reply. Incidentally, no rifle ammunition was found on Oswald's person or among his possessions; Marina Oswald told the FBI on December 16, 1963 that "Oswald did not have any ammunition for the rifle and he did not speak of buying ammunition" (CE 1403); and FBI laboratory examination of many pounds of 6.5 shells recovered from commercial rifle ranges and remote locations known to be used for target practice failed to turn up a single shell fired from the 6.5 Carcano rifle (CE 3049).

On the question of rifle smoke: The FBI, at the request of the Warren Commission, fired the Carcano in direct sunlight and in full shade, and reported back that "a small amount of white smoke" was seen (CE 3133).

Sincerely yours,

Sylvia Meagher
302 West 12 St NYC NY 10014