

16 July 1966

Dear Vince,

I do thank you very much indeed for sending me the photocopies of the documents CD 7 and SS 767. I had already received them, through Ed and Viking, so—with your permission—I will perhaps make this set available to Menachem Arnoni or (if you have sent him a set already) to Maggie Field.

Vince, I need not tell you that the O'Neill/Sibert report on the autopsy is a document of the most crucial importance, and the Hudkins document is of great value not only in itself but as a refutation of Fletcher Knebel's vicious attack on Inquest. I congratulate you from the bottom of my heart for discovering these immensely valuable papers and for making still another huge contribution to the establishment of the real truth.

Yes, Ed can be an appealing person, although I find it hard to attach to him the adjective "sweet." He is appealing because he does not try to be sweet or ingratiating; he lacks "charm" in either its natural or contrived form; but he is young, strangely vulnerable, not yet completely defined to himself, and, I believe, fundamentally a decent and fair person. I hope that you no longer suspect him of sinister connections or motives—I suppose not, or you would not be trying to help him. And, if you have altered your opinion even that much, I will continue to hope that you will ultimately reconsider your review of Ed's book, about which I have not changed my opinion. Sauvage, in his review, delivered a proper and deserved reproach to Ed, but it was in proportion to the positive elements and placed the necessary focus on the substance, as opposed to Ed's evaluation of the substance. I tried in my review to place the emphasis almost exclusively on the substance of Inquest, while making it clear that I made my own evaluation both of the Commission and its Chairman, and of the so-called evidence against Oswald.

Jones Harris phoned me last night to discuss the O'Neill/Sibert report. I raised the question of the ambiguous item on Bouck's list of materials received from Burkley, "One receipt from FBI for a missile recovered during examination of the body." It was my impression that this was a very imprecise and misleading reference to the bullet discovered on a stretcher at Parkland Hospital, about which information was received "during the examination of the body." Jones, on the other hand, insisted that it was actually a reference to the bullet fragments removed from the head and placed into a jar with a black metal top. What is your interpretation?

No, I have no idea where Fred Cook can obtain an advance of funds but, with or without funds, I hope that he will make a painstaking study of the Hearings and Exhibits before he makes further published pronouncements on the case. Even such study is no guarantee of anything, I suppose, as witness Popkin. He has achieved an admirable expertise with respect to the evidence but his speculation—combining both impersonation and complicity of Oswald—leaves me to marvel in astonishment at the "reasoning" of reasonable men.

Again, my profound thanks for sending me the documents and the transcript of your tape on the Zapruder film.