

17 January 1969

Gary Schoener
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Minneapolis 55455

Dear Gary,

Thank you for your letter and the material on the Martinsburg people. I must congratulate you on your indefatigability and resourcefulness in tracking these people down, and your thoroughness in cross-checking and interviewing.

After reading your reports, I feel that the whole business is still inconclusive. There is nothing that can be said to invalidate Mrs. Hoover's story, nor is there sufficient hard data to establish a definite link with Dallas 11/22/63.

I was struck by one part of your 3/14/68 report, on the third page under "info relating to Fernandez" end of paragraph numbered 2. I do not find at all plausible Mrs. Hoover's account of her unexpected entrance into the Fernandez living-room to find a bunch of Cubans who all covered their faces and left the room. Even if these Cubans did not wish to be observed, I find it hard to believe that they all covered their faces and left--it would serve only to attract attention and suspicion, and her story just does not ring true.

Also interesting is the general community's hostility toward the Cubans in their midst--presumably anti-Communist by reason of their very presence. Yet the anti-Communist posture of the town was not enough to overcome the inherent hostility toward foreigners.

As to Lifton's reconstruction of the possible origin of the Zapruder film print in "Farewell America," I had reached similar conclusions before seeing his analysis, though I had not the same information and details at my disposal. I find his reconstruction entirely logical and persuasive, pending contradictory evidence which may still emerge.

Finally, let me say that I am more disappointed than anyone about the lack of a paperback edition of Accessories. Bobbs-Merrill assure me that they have made strenuous efforts to interest paperback publishers in doing the book, and that they are still continuing to make such efforts; but no one has made an offer. Perhaps if I had used a title that was more titillating--something on the bedroom habits of Warren, or the intimate sex life of Hosty--the book might have been more attractive to the paperback houses. Live and learn.

All good wishes for your exams, and for this still-new Year,

Sincerely yours,

Sylvia Meagher