

22 June 1965

Dear Mr Jenner,

I am engaged in a comparative study of the Warren Report and the corresponding source data found in the Hearings and Exhibits. I hope that you can clarify a problem which I have encountered, on a subject with which you have special familiarity.

The difficulty arises from a careful reading of your examination of Ruth Paine at her home in Irving on March 23, 1964 (9H 398-401). I would infer from the transcript that it would have been impossible for Marina Oswald to see the license number on FBI agent Hosty's car from the bedroom window during his November 5, 1963 visit. The testimony suggests that it is extremely doubtful that she could have taken, or did take, the license number on the previous visit on November 1, when his car was parked at some distance from the Paine home.

After reading this transcript, I reviewed Marina Oswald's testimony of February 4, 1964 (1H 48) but found her replies vague as to the date and vantage point from which she wrote down the license number. Therefore, I turned to her later testimony—testimony subsequent to your experiment in the Paine house and your questioning of Mrs Paine. However, to my surprise, I found no further reference to the license number in Marina Oswald's later testimony in June, July, or September 1964 (volumes V and XI).

Consequently, I have some difficulty in tracing the means by which the Commission satisfied itself that "Marina Oswald noted Hosty's license number which she gave to her husband" (Warren Report page 327). It is hardly possible to reconcile that assertion with the testimony, which raises serious problems about the feasibility of such an action by Marina Oswald, and the lack of any follow-up which could be said to resolve the question.

If I have overlooked documents relevant to this problem, and I may well have done so in scanning the abundance of Exhibits, will you please provide me with the references? If there are no such documents, will you please indicate the Commission's reasoning on this matter in reaching a conclusion—that Marina Oswald recorded the license number—for which the available testimony gives inadequate foundation.

Another facet of this same problem is the testimony of J. Edgar Hoover (5H 112) in which he explained the circumstances under which the FBI report of February 11, 1964 transmitted information which had been omitted from the FBI report of December 23, 1963, on the presence in Oswald's notebook of Hosty's name and numbers. He said explicitly that this information was furnished to the Commission prior to any inquiry concerning this matter. However, Marina Oswald was questioned about the license number on February 4, 1964, one week before the belated FBI report. Can you indicate how the Hosty entries in the notebook came to the Commission's attention, since apparently the FBI was not the primary source of the information?

Finally, can you provide me with the exhibit number for the affidavit executed by FBI special agent Robert P. Gemberling, transmitted to the Commission by letter dated February 27, 1964 (CE 833, page 15)? I have not been able to locate it, to my chagrin, in an effort to trace the various steps in the discovery and handling of the Hosty entries.

These questions are not posed out of idle curiosity, as I am sure you will realize, but in an attempt to complete what is a somewhat incomplete picture of the episode in the Hearings and Exhibits. Certainly I do not wish to make assumptions or criticisms which may prove wholly unwarranted in the light of clarifications which you are in a position to provide. For this reason, I hope that you will be good enough to provide such clarifications at your earliest convenience. I am sorry to impose on what I am sure is a busy and useful schedule of activities, some of which have been mentioned recently in the press and which I might say, without any attempt at ingratiating, were highly gratifying to all opponents of the witch-hunt.

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Yeacher