

14 May 1979

My dear Tony,

Now I understand what you meant by a "boring letter". It is a letter that requires one to do a good number of hours of very boring research in order to prepare a reply.

Perhaps I should clarify my ground rules. I am quite willing to give any teiler in the fields information that is stored in my head or that I can retrieve from the literature in a few minutes. I am not willing to do elaborate or prolonged research.

This time, because most of your questions referred to points I raised with you, I have stayed up most of the night digging out the information and typing the enclosed replies and clarifications. I have answered all your questions except two that require extensive reading of testimony and documents.

I think I should also clarify the question of my doing the index for your book. As you may know, the author is responsible for providing the index as an integral part of his manuscript. The publisher may make the actual payment to the indexer but the cost is then deducted from the advance or from royalties. In other words, unless you have a special arrangement with your publisher-to-be, you will have to bear the expense of the index.

That being so, I think I should tell you that you can almost certainly have it done for less money than I would charge. I do not work for less than \$100 a day and your lengthy manuscript would require at least a week of work. The fact is that my tax rate is very high and if I charged less I would be left with a very insignificant sum for a week of work.

I will not be offended in the least if you find a competent indexer who would do the job for you for less money.

All the best,

Page 56: Hudson revision is okay. No, Jean Newman was not a witness before the WC.

Page 92: My recollection was generally correct but not exact. In fact, there was one identifiable palmprint which remained unidentified (see WR 249 and 566). After all other efforts to identify this palmprint had failed (e.g., police officers or FBI personnel who might have handled the cartons were eliminated, as were those manual laborers in the Depository who normally handled cartons), "Mr. Truly therefore requested that other employees not be fingerprinted" (CE 1980). Fingerprints and palmprints had been obtained on June 15, 1964, from Arce, Dougherty, Frazier, Givens, Jarman, Kaiser, Lewis, Levelady, Piper, Shelley, West, and Williams, none of which matched the palmprint. The palmprint remains unidentified to this day.

Page 104: You are quite right, Reffman does refer to allegations that Oswald said that he had worn a "reddish colored" (WR 622) or a "red shirt" (WR 626) but Reffman also says that Oswald owned no shirt answering to this description. That is corroborated in CEs 150 et seq (photographs and descriptions of Oswald's apparel). He owned shirts that were brown, light brown, and blue. No red shirts. Moreover, both Buell Wesley Frazier and his sister, Mrs. Randle, were questioned about Oswald's apparel on the morning of 11/22/63. Frazier said that he had not noticed what shirt Oswald had on and remembered only that he wore a "gray, more or less flannel, wool-looking type of jacket" but not the gray zipper jacket recovered after the Tippit shooting, which he said that he had never seen Oswald wear (see 2H 238). Mrs. Randle was somewhat more observant. She said "he had on a white T-shirt and I remember some sort of brown or tan shirt and he had a gray jacket" which she thought resembled the gray zipper jacket found after the Tippit shooting (2H 250). The weight of this evidence and testimony suggests to me that the man in the window in a red shirt, if there was such a man, could not have been Oswald, and I hope that you will remove this suggestion from your manuscript.

Page 135: Combest omits the "clenched fist" in his WC testimony (12H 185) and also in an earlier FBI interview, on 12/3/63 (Combest Exhibit No. 5101 in Vol. XIX page 350). I am very sceptical of his present description of the clenched fist and I think it has no merit or he would not have failed to mention it to the FBI and/or the WC.

Page 329: CE 2216, an FBI report dated 12/4/63, states that Oswald "was paroled for a Mr. A. Heckman, a Jury Commissioner, State of Louisiana, Orleans Parish, New Orleans". The question is, was Heckman acting on behalf of Nefie Pecora? I have seen nothing to suggest this, but the House Committee may have evidence to that effect.

Other questions:

(1) Sorry, I don't have the time to review all the testimony from Oswald's fellow-Marines.

(2) Ditto on Marguerite. However, in my own book I do cite CE 2681, which is a State Department memorandum dated 1/26/61, which states that Marguerite "thought there was some possibility that her son had in fact gone to the Soviet Union as a US secret agent". I cited that document for the very reason that it preceded the assassination by almost three years and carries more weight for than similar statements by her after the assassination.

(3) No, the TV truck was outside City Hall on Saturday and not near the County Jail. See Frederick Rheinstein, 15H 355.

(4) Both McMillen and Dean said for the first time on 11/25/63 that Ruby had entered via the Main Street Ramp. McMillen said so in an FBI interview of 11/25/63 (McMillen Exhibit No. 5019, Vol. 20 page 564). Dean said so in a report to Chief of Police Curry dated 11/26/63 (Dean Exhibit No. 5009, Vol. 19 page 439); but in his testimony before the WC Dean said that he had actually dictated that report to Curry on the preceding day, 11/25/63 (12H 439).