

7 March 1967

Dear Tink,

I am mystified too. All I know is that Dick Sprague phoned me Wednesday morning last week, asking if I knew anyone named "Thompson" and then said a man in Dallas, whose name I had never heard before and who wanted his name kept confidential, had received a call from someone named Thompson, had blamed him (Sprague) for revealing his identity. Maybe Berendt has been making calls in your name—that seems the only explanation—on the basis of what you yourself found in the Archives. In any case, I disclaimed all knowledge of the whole thing, and thought it better not to mention that I had even talked to you the previous day. Let's forget it.

No, Oswald never claimed that he saw Norman outside. He said that while having his lunch on the first floor he had seen a man named "Junior" (Jarman) with a "little short guy" (Norman) walk through the room, at a time when in fact they had apparently been in position to be seen there. See 3H 189 (Norman) and WR 622.

Oswald also said that he had stood around outside the building (after the shooting) for five or ten minutes and had talked to Bill Shelley (WR 619); but this Shelley denied (7H 390). Note, however, that in his first deposition on April 7, 1964, Shelley was not even asked whether Oswald's claim was true or not; the question was put when he testified again a month later, on May 14, 1964. Unless Oswald was not on the bus (in which case, how did he get the transfer?), his allegation about Shelley appears false; but the first allegation, about "Junior" and his companion, is either true, or a miraculously lucky guess. Or can you think of any other explanation?

I'm feeling lost without the ms., which is now with the designer and goes next to the printer for galleys; and alternately high and low about Garrison—if he doesn't come through, we will have one tough time getting any attention when our books come out. Have you heard that Charles Roberts (Newsweek) has a book about to come out, defending the WR?

Warm regards,