

19 September 1969

Dear Tink,

I hope that you received my letter of a few weeks ago and that you are well and enjoying life in Denmark. Your absence leaves quite a hole, for me, especially on those infrequent occasions when something new crops up on the WR and I can't rush to the phone to share it with you, as I would normally do.

Two such occasions arose in the last few months--nothing sensational, but deeply satisfying in terms of corroborating the reasoning and conclusions reached at a much earlier stage of the reconstruction of actual events from the evidence in the 26 volumes. I think I had told you earlier this year, before you left, about some CDs I had obtained on a "confidential" basis from Lifton and of my excitement on reading in a Ball/Belin summary report of February 1964 that Charles Givens as of that time had been telling a completely different story from the one that appears in the WR--according to which he had not only not returned to the sixth floor for his cigarettes, but had actually placed Oswald on the first floor at 11:50 a.m., thus corroborating the three other witnesses who saw him there too, between 11:50 and noon (Shelley, Piper) and at 12:15 (Mrs. Arnold).

Well, on top of that, I have now obtained from the Archives quite a thick bunch of excerpts from various CDs (upon learning in August that the price per page had been cut from 20¢ to 10¢, I became one of the best customers). One such excerpt is the best 10¢ I ever spent, since it is a report of an FBI interview of Lt. Revill in February 1969, in which Revill recalls that Givens came to the police building in the afternoon of 11/22/63, that he was previously known to the police because of a marijuana charge, and that in Revill's opinion, Givens "would change his story for money."

While that has no legal force, it is a most significant commentary in the light of the fact that Givens did indeed change his story, not long afterwards, so as to incriminate rather than alibi Oswald. And I am more than ever convinced that this metamorphosis was accomplished in collusion with the police, the FBI, and David Belin as well as the other lawyers of the WC.

The second 10¢ bargain has to do with the "Strange Arraignment" discussed in Accessories, and consists of an interview conducted on 11/25/63 by our old friend FBI agent Hosty. In his report on that interview, he states that he was informed by the office of Captain Fritz that there was no arraignment of Oswald for the murder of JFK, for the reason that he had already been arraigned for the Tippit shooting and was already in custody on a murder charge. What is significant here is not the bare fact in itself but, as in the case of Givens, the evidence it provides about the Warren Commission and its lawyers---that the Hosty report of the 11/25/63 interview was suppressed, and a wholly false story taken in sworn testimony from Curry, Fritz, Lt. Baker, et al without being challenged in any reference to the Hosty 11/25/63 report, and the fabrication then embodied in the WR.

For anyone who may still think that Oswald was guilty, in whole or in part, I have a question: Why was it necessary time and again to pervert and fabricate the "facts" about a "guilty" man, as the WC and its cohorts did? I will ask Tom Bethell, who should be visiting New York within the next few days, with his finished ms. on the Garrison-caper-from-inside. I can't ask Epstein, with whom I am not on speaking terms. By the way, the picture of Vince that emerges from Bethell's ms. is almost painful, to anyone who once held him in affection--the picture of a rather hysterical, vicious, and ruthless paranoid, self-deluded and intoxicated by having power through flattery of Garrison.

The case has never been at so low an ebb, for so long a time, as it is now. If I get one piece of mail and one phone-call a week, it is sensational. The really big days are when my orders arrive from the Archives, but as one might expect there is only one needle per haystack and most of the CDs are plain junk.

Susan and Lenny are in course of moving to an apartment in New Brunswick, where he has started a new and better job, with Johnson & Johnson. New Brunswick is not so distant, geographically or telephonically, as Copenhagen...but it might as well be. I'm exaggerating; actually, we do speak, every 2 weeks or so, but the old days will not be seen again.

If you are reading the American press at all, you will know that Lyndon Johnson is alive and well and living in the White House under the name Richard Nixon. The war goes on, and all the principals play their well-known roles just as in 1966, 1967. Even James Reston is getting bitter and sarcastic. And that says a lot.

Do write soon, Tink, and please don't become too divorced from WR affairs. With warmest affection to you, Nancy, and the children,

As always,