

16 December 1969

Dear Tink,

I have very sad news to give you. Bob Ockene succumbed to leukemia at the age of 35 on the 2nd of December. I won't try to write more about this now when the shock and heart-sickness is still so keen.

Yesterday I received Curry's "book" and I have today ordered a copy for you, which I will forward as soon as it arrives. Not that it is all that sensational, but it does include a few tantalizing "exhibits." It is one of these souvenir-type soft-covered brochures, like "Four Dark Days" and other things of this type, rather poorly written—133 pages, many of which are devoted to photos or documents.

Curry takes repeated swipes at the FBI, the SS, and the WC, while at the same time finding no fault whatever with the performance of the stalwart Keystone Cops, not even at his old enemy Fritz. He is quite ambiguous about Oswald's role, seeming to suggest that his guilt in the Tippit shooting is open-and-shut but that there are serious questions about JFK. Curry is emphatic about the fact that the wound at the Adam's apple was an entrance wound; about the fact that blood and brain tissue exploded backward onto Hargis, and that Hargis ditched his motorcycle and headed for the grassy knoll on the assumption that the shots came from there; he swipes at the "star witness" of the WC, Brennan; and even seems to hint that the man in the doorway in the Altgens photo might not have been Billy Lovelady.

In discussing the fingerprints on the rifle, he says merely that they were not identifiable, but does not mention the palmprint until much later, at which time he makes no attempt to explain how it was discovered or by whom, etc. In other words, he does not respond to published questions and criticisms as such and there is nothing in the whole "book" to suggest that he has read any of the critical work or acknowledges the existence of any critics, not even Mark Lane.

A few items are nevertheless interesting and perhaps significant. In a large clear photo captioned "Evidence released to the FBI Laboratory for tests" there are shown the blanket, the .38 revolver, the paper bag, and some smaller items. One is labeled "A metal fragment from the arm of Governor Connally" and is shown next to "A .38 Special bullet taken from Officer Tippit's body." In the photo the fragment appears to be about the same size as the bullet—a lot bigger than it is supposed to be in the Sacred Writings.

Another large clear photo shows the items recovered from the Paine residence by search warrant on 11/23/63. One can see easily various books, pamphlets, circulars ("Hands Off Cuba") and photographs. But none of the photos appear to correspond with the two prints of Oswald holding the rifle, supposedly discovered during this particular search.

Then there is Exhibit No. 50, captioned "Identification cards and handwritten addresses which were in LHO's wallet when he was arrested." Every one of the cards is in the name LHO, none in the name "Hidell." The latter, the forged Hidell cards, are in Exhibit No. 41, captioned "The forged identification papers in Oswald's wallet at the time of his arrest." Perhaps there is nothing really remarkable about this. The photographs were presumably made on or about 11/22/63, at which time they may well have segregated the Hidell cards from the LHO cards. Yet if they were all found at the same time and in the same place—on Oswald's person, in his wallet—why not all the cards in both names in a single photo?

You will probably find items I have overlooked when you get Curry's opus (I've mentioned only those which struck me more forcibly than others, which I haven't mentioned here). But I fear there is nothing in Curry's "file" that advances us beyond the present utter stasis and silence.

My warm and affectionate Greetings for the holidays and the new year, to you and Nancy and the small ones,

As always,