

8 June 1970

Dear Tink,

It's good to ~~learn~~ from your letter of the 1st that you will be coming home a bit earlier than you originally planned. Everything you say about Indochina has already been confirmed by events or is certain to be. Things have simmered down, of course, out of the sheer inability of the human being to sustain white-hot emotion over a prolonged or indefinite time-span. But nothing has changed, or changed for the better, so far as I can see.

In our own field of special interest, I'm writing a review of three recent books dealing with the JFK assassination. If I ever finish it, I'll send it to Greg Olds, though there is nothing of great importance to be said about any of these belated works. One is by Judy Bonner, to whitewash the Dallas police (utter trash); one is by Brian McConnell, on the history of assassination (with part of a chapter given to JFK); ~~the~~ ^{one} is with the London Daily Mirror (outrageous crap); and the third, by Al Newman, is at least literate, well-researched, and at times almost ingenious, but unhappily, paranoid. Newman's thesis is that Oswald was a lone assassin of JFK and also Tippit but was part of a conspiracy to shoot Walker—all deriving from his cold, sane, but fanatic pro-Castro political motivation. In the course of trying to demonstrate that the WR gives a mistaken reconstruction of the Walker shooting and that Oswald had to have accomplices for that particular occasion, Newman unintentionally strengthens the arguments of those of us who concluded that LHO had nothing to do with the Walker affair at all.

Two points dawned in my dulled head recently which I should have recognized long ago but did not. One, stimulated by Newman's book, was that when Oswald supposedly cased Walker's house and took photographs of the surroundings, in preparation for shooting him to death, he had no firearms in his possession. He had not yet ordered the rifle from Klein's, nor received (in mid-March 1963) the revolver order in late January, for which he had paid \$30 in advance. It seems (now that I think of it) highly implausible for anyone to have done the casing and the photos before having a gun available; and it seems highly out of character for Oswald not to have fired off a few indignant letters to the mail order house that kept his \$30 but did not fill the order or otherwise reply for almost two months.

The second point arose while I was reexamining certain CEs in an attempt to provide some information in reply to an urgent request from Fred Newcomb (the guy on the west coast who has been working on the photo and film evidence, looking for alterations and forgeries). While re-reading ^{in CE 2003} the inventory of LHO possessions obtained by the police during the Saturday afternoon search of the Paine premises—during which the photos of Oswald holding a rifle ostensibly were discovered in the garage—it suddenly struck me that the photos and negative(s) in question were NOT listed on the inventory, dated 11/26/63, and that other inventories, documents, and testimony which do certify the finding of those incriminating snapshots are either undated or sufficiently distant in time from the date of the alleged discovery on 11/23/63 to be possible forgeries or falsifications.

None of this is conclusive, of course—what is ever truly "conclusive" in this endlessly complicated convoluted case? But not wholly insignificant or irrelevant either, I think. It will be a joy to have you back and be able to pick up and phone and talk instead of trying to "converse" by letter. Let's plan a long session together as soon as you are resettled. Meanwhile, much love,

As always,