

Mr. Steve August
68 Norfolk St.,
Needham, MA 02192

11/30/95

Dear Steve,

The FBI is structured, as is necessary for any such agency, to be able to retrieve what it knows rapidly. All the names are indexed at headquarters and in the field offices. A search on a name shows what the files hold promptly.

To the best of my recollection, however, the FBI never told the Commission that Ruby had been a criminal ~~informer~~ for it and was dropped after the usual period of probation as nonproductive. In fact it has succeeded in keeping ^{those} ~~that~~ files secret. At Headquarters and at Dallas.

The President of Hood retired last year. I've had no meeting with the new one. It had been the intent of the one who retired to make all they get from me available to other institutions by new visual imaging. The last time we spoke about it she said that it was only 95% dependable and they'd await a better performance.

Some of the files I got have since been made available on microfilm but I've made no effort to keep up with all of that.

I understand that the first 15 of the Commission's 26 volumes, its testimony, is now available on a CD Rom.

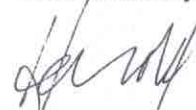
In general the agreement is that all will always be available to anyone. We had no agreement on how.

Oswald was one of our innumerable young people who could have amounted to something but never had the chance. He was well informed, more so than many of his officers, yet he was a high school dropout.

What was his role? The stark truth is not ^easy to handle. The official evidence really is that he could not have been the assassin.

As he said himself, he was a patsy.

Best wishes,



Harold Weisberg

November 28, 1995

Mr. Harold Weisberg
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68 Norfolk Street
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Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Thank you again for a prompt and informative response to my letters. It is very kind of you to provide copies of your files. I read them right away, and find them most interesting. The "Secret" document, undated, is certainly a most interesting find.

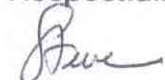
Speaking of your files and the countless documents you possess, I hope you have spoken to Hood College regarding getting them preserved on microfilm. It seems that if the college is going to be the beneficiary of your work, they could help to fund the preservation of the materials.

In any case, I have numerous questions about the documents you recently sent. One thing that surprises me is the early internal admission of the FBI of knowledge of both Oswald's activities and of Ruby's past history as an informant of something for the agency. I have always been led to believe that this was not generally known at the time of the investigation, but these documents clearly indicate that these two characters were not simply, unknown, "lone nuts."

So what was Oswald's role? It seems that he was knowledgeable about the events of the day. Perhaps this is not easily explained. None of it seems to be.

As always, thanks for the correspondence.

Respectfully,



Steven W. August