

3/13/67

Mr. Bob Richter  
CBS News

Dear Bob,

Here is the Hoover report you requested Friday. I have more on this if CBS develops any interest in it, but I do not want to keep on giving away all that I have that is not published.

If you see Tom before I do, which is likely, please tell him that those things he wanted I have mailed for him. By this I mean those things he said he'd like copies of when we were working together 3/3/67. They are from 75 and 126. I sent them by air.

Please also tell him what I could not conveniently on Friday, that his presence has elicited some curiosity, that there is official interest in his possible connections and purposes, and that I did not satisfy it.

I do not expect to be in Washington again this week. If you want the negatives I offered, I can mail them. It is possible clearer copies exist. There are other things going with this that I also have if your interest goes in that direction.

Sincerely,

# CBS NEWS

A Division of Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.  
524 West 57 Street  
New York, New York 10019  
(212) 765-4321

Dear Hal:

Thanks very much for sending me the document on the Altgens photo.

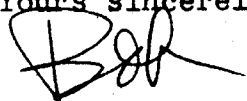
I haven't been back to the Archives since that day I met you there--been in New Orleans most of the time since--but I expect to be back very soon. I'll pass your message along to Tom at that time.

I would be interested in talking with you again on some specific matters, including your reference in your letter to some other things you have dealing with the case.

One matter you may be able to clear up is exactly what document states unequivocally that the picture of Lovelady in the short-sleeved striped shirt is indeed and in fact the picture of the clothing he wore in the TSBD doorway.

I appreciate your help and look forward to seeing you again.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Richter

Mr. Harold Weisberg  
Hyattstown, Maryland 20734

March 23, 1967

3/25/67

Dear Bob,

The Monday after the Friday I saw you at the archives I left the Hoover report on Lovelady's abort with Galbreath on the desk at CBS Washington. I presume that is what you refer to.

If you are not satisfied that Hoover in it is not sufficiently unequivocal, I have the original report he paraphrased. That I have not yet published. I intend using it in WHITEWASH III.

Read the bottom of the fourth page of the Hoover 2/26/64 report again. It runs over to the top of the fifth. He says that "on November 22, 1963, at the time of the assassination and shortly before, he was standing in the doorway of the front entrance of the TSBD here he is employed. He stated he was wearing a red and white vertical striped shirt and blue jeans".

This is in 457. I've forgotten the number of the field report, but I have it.

My own schedule is tight and unpredictable. I have three behind-schedule books, two past deadlines.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

June 12, 1967

Mr. Robert Richter  
CBS News  
524 West 57th St.,  
New York, N.Y. 10019

Dear Bob,

Here are the two different copies of the Arnold-FBI report of 11/26/67 from Document 5 and the second file, as marked, and the March 18 statement from Document 70 b(d).

All of the markings are on the originals. In the longer report, they seem, in the Xeroxed copy - have, to be Xeroxing marks, as generation followed generation.

These are from Chapter Four, "Three Up, Three Down, Twice" of PHOTO-GRAPHIC WHITENASH: SUPPRESSED KENNEDY ASSASSINATION PICTURES, which should be out by the middle of July (I hope earlier).

You will recall you asked for the FBI memorandum report on the "Ovelady shirt and I sent it to you. I have the original FBI report from which that was paraphrased telling more of the story (same chapter, same book) if you want it.

You phoned today after John would have left his office. I will call him at his home tonight so that, if he has a busy day tomorrow, he will know of your interest in seeing a copy of CIA WHITENASH: OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS. As of now, I hope that will be out in about six weeks.

If there is any last-minute checking you want to do, I'll be near home or at home until the morning of the 22nd, when I leave, to return the afternoon of the 25th.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

most attention of quality and detail, especially so when the shirt almost invisible on the picture to begin with (28815). The print-version is in black and white, and one can only surmise how remote from the original that is.

The color is so far from true in the prints I get that I do not know anyone could have made a positive statement of identification from them. However, it is all immaterial, for there is no question of it, Oswald was wearing but a single shirt when he was arrested.

This is what the great science of the FBI was employed to ascertain in this monumental investigation of the murder of a President! Unfortunately, it and the Commission do not answer the real question: Is the shirt on the man in the doorway the shirt in which Oswald was arrested? All we know with certainty, and with no thanks to the Report or the ten million words of printed evidence, the staff the FBI, is that the shirt on the man in the doorway cannot possibly be the shirt Leavelle said he was wearing and in which he was photographed by the FBI.

Throughout both earlier books I point out Commission evidence that Oswald could not have been, at the moment of the assassination, on the sixth floor and in that so-called "sniper's nest". There are strong indications, aside from the Algeens picture, that he was on the first floor at that time and immediately before it. The focus of the Commission and the FBI, quite naturally, is on avoiding evi- dence or proof that Oswald was on the first floor. During his inter- views by the police, none of whom, local or national, made any mention of any nature or kept a single original note (WHITEMAN-5), he seems to have told them accurately what he saw on the sixth floor, something he could not have done had he then been on the sixth floor, reasonably enough, is not in the Report, which has other inter- dings out and analyzed by those studying the investigation of the assassination, if they are fortunate enough to remember and place to- gether the thoroughly scattered clues.

In two different files I found identical copies of the Novem- ber 26 report of FBI Agent Richard S. Harrison, who on that day, the day after the assassination, interviewed "Mrs. K. R. Arnold, Sec- retary, Texas School Book Depository". The copy in File 5 has not been added. The copy in "Other Individuals and Organizations Inter- viewed", which is identified as having come from File 5, also has been added on it "NOV 30 1963", which is not on the copy from which this legend was made. One therefore wonders how many copies of each of these files there are, or how they may differ in more significant con- tent and notations.

In this interview of November 26, Mrs. Arnold is quoted as having told Harrison that at a time not positively identified but approximately 12:15 p.m. the day of the assassination, which would be right before it.

As she was standing in front of the building she stated she thought she caught a fleeting glimpse of LEE HARVEY OSWALD standing in the hallway between the front door and the double doors leading to the warehouse, located on the first floor. She could not be sure that this was OSWALD, but she said she felt it was ...

This is the FBI retelling of what Mrs. Arnold said, not her actual words.

It would be comforting to be able to reassure the reader that the FBI, ever diligent to protect the rights of the innocent and bend-

ing every effort when it investigated the murder of the President, particularly with the national integrity and honor so especially involved in this case, checked this down to the ground.

I cannot.

The FBI and the Secret Service did interview all employees at work that day. The Commission also interviewed quite a few. I refer to this in WHITEMAN II (185ff.), describing its investigation and thrust. This interrogation of each employee was repeated sev- eral times. On April 30, 1964, Hoover sent Rankin duplicate copies of each of 73 "signed statements" by each employee at work that day (228632ff.). This includes one from Mrs. Arnold (228634). I also have the copy from File 70b(d). It is made from the same pa- per that is printed but, from the Xeroxing marks, is a different copy.

I found not a single case where the FBI asked a witness if he or she had seen Oswald shortly before the assassination, par- ticularly about 12:15 and on the first floor, at or near the front or warehouse doors.

The reader should understand that almost invariably these signed statements are prepared by FBI agents and then signed by the witness. They include only those of the witness's words the FBI chose to record and reflect only what the agents wanted re- corded of answers to questions they chose to ask. In this case, as in the other, what Hoover sent the Commission is not the origi- nal handwritten statement but a typed copy. This need involve no deceit, for instead of the signatures, the names are typed in fol- lowing the mark, "s/n".

The agents who took an additional statement from Mrs. Caro- lyn Arnold, identified as Mrs. R. E. Arnold, are K. J. Robertson and Thomas T. Trettis, whose other work we have already had occasion to examine. They interviewed her and she signed the statement on March 18.

In this statement she says that "at the time President Ken- nedy was shot" she was standing "in front of" the building, which covers a rather large area, with a number of other employees, whom she names. This sentence follows:

I did not see Lee Harvey Oswald at the time President Ken- nedy was shot.

Robertson and Trettis did not ask Mrs. Arnold about seeing Oswald on the first floor right before the President was shot, the reality. They asked her about "at the time the President was shot", a little later than she said she had seen him.

It is worth noting that in the Harrison report of November 26, which Mrs. Arnold never saw, she is said to have told him that she left her office "between 12:00 and 12:15 to go downstairs and stand in front of the building". In the statement that she signed, hence presumably read, whether she or FBI Agents Robertson and Trettis drafted it for her signature, the time given is not "be- tween 12:00 and 12:15" but "about 12:25". The exact words are: "I left the Texas School Book Depository Building at about 12:25."

Mrs. Arnold's office is on the second floor of that building, in the Commission's own timing but a minute from the front door. From this it would seem that she saw Oswald at about 12:25. The FBI's record, the method of its interrogations and reporting and the universal complaints about their lack of fidelity, which did not alarm the Commission as it should have, at the very least jus- tify the belief that Mrs. Arnold's representation of seeing Oswald was considerably more firm than Harrison represents it. The dis- crepancy in the times is the FBI's alone. It cannot be justified

The color is so far from true in the prints I got that I do not see how anyone could have made a positive statement of identification from them. However, it is all immaterial, for there is no question about it, Oswald was wearing but a single shirt when he was arrested. That one shirt is one and the same shirt, no matter how reprinted.

This is what the great science of the FBI was employed to assure us in this monumental investigation of the murder of a President! Unfortunately, it and the Commission do not answer the real question: Is the shirt on the man in the doorway the shirt in which Oswald was arrested? All we know with certainty, and with no thanks to the FBI, is that the shirt on the man in the doorway cannot possibly be the shirt Lovelady said he was wearing and in which he was photographed by the FBI.

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This is the FBI retelling of what Mrs. Arnold said, not the actual words. It would be comforting to be able to re-examine the original in FBI, even if it had to be done in a court of law.

The FBI and the Commission also investigated the matter that day. The FBI also investigated the matter that day. I refer to this in "Whitfield 0-5", which is a book of facts and trust. This investigation of each employee was repeated several times. On April 30, 1964, Hoover sent me in duplicate copies of each of 71 "signed statements" by each employee at work that day (22Hb37ff.). This includes one from Mrs. Arnold (22Hb37). I also have the copy from File 70b(d). It is made from the same paper that is printed but, from the Xeroxing marks, is a different copy.

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Robertson and Trettis did not ask Mrs. Arnold about seeing Oswald on the first floor right before the President was shot, the reality. They asked her about "at the time the President was shot" a little later than she said she had seen him.

It is worth noting that in the Harrison report of November 26, which Mrs. Arnold never saw, she is said to have told him that she left her office "between 12:00 and 12:15 to go downstairs and stand in front of the building". In the statement that she signed, Trettis presumably read, whether she or FBI Agents Robertson and Trettis drafted it for her signature, the time given is not "between 12:00 and 12:15" but "about 12:25". The exact words are: "I left the Texas School Book Depository Building at about 12:25."

Mrs. Arnold's office is on the second floor of that building, in the Commission's own timing but a minute from the front door. From this it would seem that she saw Oswald about 12:25. The FBI's record of the method of the interrogation and reporting and the universal committee's method of checking the report, which had been done by Robertson and Trettis, is in the original report, which is in the FBI's files.