

3/4/69

Dear Lou,

I started to mail this to Jim, but I'd like you to read it first. It is one of the things I tried to phone you about. Too bad you could have talked to me before Shaw was charged. This, in light of the nature of the defense, seems to my non-lawyer's mind also to be perjury, though I'd much prefer that it have gone to the jury - and the world.

C  
O  
P  
Y

During the trial, I made a number of efforts to reach another on the staff. Had my calls been returned, you could have put on the witness who heard Sheridan try and buy Andrews. He called me and told me about it right after I left New Orleans January 23. At that time, apparently, all the telephones stopped working. You finally got it, because one of Bud's calls about the same thing was belatedly returned - after it was too late to get before the jury. With Andrews a defense witness, wouldn't that have been nice!

There was no point in phoning when you were all in court. Besides, my last two messages were never delivered when I left them at the switchboard - or at least I was so told in January.

I have been a farmer, and I do live in the country, so I also know about closing barn doors. Too bad I wasn't able to close some of the others I tried, like Tom, so very long ago.

When you can, I'd appreciate the return of my rifle, with the clips and disarmed ammo, if they are still with it. If any of the ammo is still alive and you can disarm three shells and put the bullets back in, try putting them in the clip, inserting them and going through the motions of firing. If what two young members of the National Rifle Association told me is true, you will find that the clip falls out as soon as the last cartridge goes into the breech. This is so the next clip can be put in. Isaac Newton took care of that long before there was a Warren Commission. Never having had my own rifle, when I found out that Dick Bernabei is a rifle buff, I asked him. He assures me it is true. Then you might want to read that part of the Warren Report and the appropriate testimony that says the rifle was found with the empty clip in it and the last bullet in the breech. I think it would soon have dawned on the jury that there is only one way this could have happened. It would have been a very graphic thing. Ever since those boys told me that in about November 1966, I have been wanting to try it, taking pictures to use in one of my books. I now plan it for AGENT OSWALD. But, the boys in California, where I bought the rifle, never did return it. So I have never been able to try this little experiment. It might have been a very nice thing to ask the FBI's and Commission's "ballistics expert" why he didn't tell the Commission this. I think had he said he wasn't told to it might not have been well received by the jury.

The memo on Jesse Core and Shaw and Cobb is on onionskin paper typed in one of those many nights I set up, for nothing, typing things up down there. It is worse than my usual bad typing because I was using Matt's broken, strange portable. Before the trial, there would have been no difficulty establishing that Shaw was fired. I have Jesse on tape saying it.

Anybody who thinks the other side is trying to cut our throats is crazy. We do it for them. It isn't necessary for them to try.

Sincerely,

I know you are busy. No rush on the rifle, I just don't want it to get lost.

3/4/69

Mr. Jim Garrison  
District Attorney  
New Orleans, La.

Dear Jim,

C  
You once said there is a communication problem between us. Alas, it is apparently true, in part, I presume, due to the fact that Alexander Graham Bell has not been born.

O  
There is in your files, for I saw to it, a copy of an FBI interview with James Lawrence from CD 206. Here are the first two paragraphs:

JAMES LAWRENCE, identifying himself as employed as a Leasing Agent of the Cross Country Development Corporation, a subsidiary of Bloomfield ~~INDUSTRIES~~ Building Industries, 3355 Poplar Avenue, Memphis Tennessee, advised as follows:

P  
LAWRENCE spent about ten weeks at the New Orleans sub-office of the Cross Country Development Corporation, located Room 101 of the International Trade Mart, 124 Camp Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, said period running from July to the middle of October of 1963. He was there to handle leasing arrangements for a new International Trade Mart being constructed by Bloomfield Building Industries.

I have added the emphasis.

Y  
You will find Lawrence, Nick Palmisano and Dolores Nealey in the Johann Rush-WDSU footage and some of the stills, as I recall it, with a roll of blueprints leaving the ITM building.

If you find this at all interesting in the light of the sworn testimony of both Shaw and Lloyd Cobb, then I suggest you read the memo of November 8 of last year that I also left in your office, the second page, wherein it is set forth how "completely Voluntary" Shaw's departure from the ITM was, again as both he and Cobb testified to it.

Cobb, personally, fired him. He extended Shaw the courtesy of permitting him to appear to resign. This, no doubt, is what "completely" really means.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Weisberg

I enclose the first page of this report. Dolores Nealey was then Jesse Core's secretary. After being photographed, she had lunch that day with Johann.