

2537 Regent St., Apt. 202  
Berkeley, Calif. 94704  
March 21, 1968

Mr. Tom Bethell  
638 Royal Street  
N.O., La. 70130

Dear Tom,

Thank you for your letters of March 6 and 13. I am enclosing a memo on various copies of the Corliss Lamont pamphlet. I am still working on the 544 Camp St. literature angle, and will pass on any conclusions to you; in the meantime, I will try to answer the specific questions in your letters.

As the enclosed memo shows, at least 2 of the 4 Lamont pamphlets obtained from Oswald by the N.O.P.D. after his arrest had the Camp St. address. I know nothing more than you do about the chain of possession of the copy in the Intelligence Division file. I have no reason to believe that Martello ever saw that copy, since he was not with the Intelligence Division at that time (10H53). CE 3120 is a copy of the pamphlet which Martello said he obtained from Oswald, but I cannot tell whether this means directly from Oswald or from the evidence that Martello noticed on the morning of the 10th. The latter possibility seems to fit better with Martello's rather confusing accounts.

As far as I know, none of the "Hands off Cuba" handbills or any other of Oswald's literature had the Camp St. address.

I do not know how to interpret Mrs. Garner's statement (10H269) to the effect that Quiroga had a stack of pamphlets with him when he visited Oswald. Obviously, there are lots of things I would like to know about Quiroga.

Your letter mentioned that the Secret Service steered clear of Banister in their investigation of the 544 Camp St. matter. I had not noticed previously that on December 2, 1963, SA Gerrets went to 2 union offices at 544 Camp (at least one of which was on the second floor) and found nobody who had seen Oswald, but apparently did not inquire at Banister's office. I am willing to believe that this omission was innocent. (Perhaps Gerrets did not know who Banister was, and perhaps Banister was smart enough to close his office while the investigation was in progress.) I am not very suspicious of the Secret Service investigation of this matter; I feel that if the SS had not happened to get to Martello before the FBI did, we might never have found out about the 544 Camp St. literature at all.

There is no doubt, however, that pp. 680-683 of CD 75 cannot be called an investigation by the FBI. Weisberg has pointed out that pages 682-3 raise the question of why Wall was interested in Arcaha and Banister (Oswald in N.O., pp. 330 +). It seems most probable that the FBI first interviewed Newman (pp. 680-1) and that the Bartes and Banister reports constitute a "followup investigation." It also appears that the purpose of the Newman interview was to find out if Oswald had rented an office for the FPCC at 544 Camp; it is most reasonable to assume that it was prompted by FBI knowledge of the Lamont pamphlet - perhaps through the N.O.P.D. or the SS, and perhaps from a copy in the FBI files. One strange thing is that neither in the Newman interview nor in any other document I recall seeing does the FBI say that Oswald was distributing literature with the 544 Camp St. address. I do not know of any other FBI documentation of this "investigation," but I have not searched for it.

I have absolutely no positive evidence that the FBI noticed or understood the significance of the 544 Camp St. business before the assassination. That is purely speculation on my part, based largely on the assumption that what Garrison says about Oswald's activities and Government connections is true. I think that many aspects of the FBI's reports on Oswald before the assassination are suspicious. For one thing, although the FBI asked Oswald where the N.O. FPCC met (4H435), checked out PO Box 30016, and made attempts to locate Hidell (CE 833, #17), there is no indication that the 544 Camp address was checked. It is possible that the copies of the Lamont pamphlet which Quigley saw did not have that address, or that he didn't notice it (nobody in the N.O.P.D. noticed it either, as far as I know), but I find this a bit unlikely.

I expect that you see the possible importance of obtaining the copy of the pamphlet which Oswald "made available" to Quigley (17H761) and which Quigley may or may not have kept. Since at least some of the pamphlets had the 544 Camp St. address, why did Oswald tell Quigley that the FPCC had no office in N.O. (17H759)? Did he perhaps hold on to a copy with no address to show Quigley?

There is probably quite a bit of relevant material in the Archives on the whole 544 Camp matter, in addition to the appendix to Weisberg's book and the material I have obtained recently, but I have not done the sort of research that is necessary. I expect that there are many negative clues (i.e. omissions in FBI reports), and it is essentially impossible to do that kind of research without being in Washington.

Concerning the origin of the pamphlets: in V.T. Lee Exhibit 1, Oswald wrote, "I now ask for 40 or 50 more of the fine, basic pamphlets-14," i.e., the Lamont pamphlet "The Crime Against Cuba." It is indicated that 50 copies were sent on 4/19/63.

In his next letter (Lee Exhibit 2) Oswald pointed out that "in the past I have received from you pamphlets etc., both bought by me and given to me by you." My guess is that the leaflets (perhaps including the Lamont pamphlet) which Oswald apparently distributed in Dallas were purchased by mail, perhaps using an ad in the Militant or the Worker, and that the national FPCC office did not keep a record of this transaction. It is noted that Oswald had quite a selection of FPCC material in his possession at the time of the assassination (9H419-421).

Have you checked out the apparent distribution of FPCC literature on the Tulane campus (CE 2548, CE 3029)? The FBI and the Commission do not seem to have been too interested. The Tulane campus police might have some records on this.

Sincerely yours,

*Paul L. Hoch*

Paul L. Hoch

cc-H. Weisberg

INFORMATION ON VARIOUS COPIES OF THE PAMPHLET "THE CRIME AGAINST CUBA"

A) 20 copies picked up in Texas after the assassination:

FBI Exhibits 99 and 303 are respectively 3 and 17 copies of this pamphlet by Corliss Lamont which were found in Irving (24H278, 24H332, 24H337). The Archives has advised that 9 copies have no address on page 39 and that 10 have the address " FPCC 544 CAMP ST. NEW ORLEANS, LA." (The remaining copy has an illegible notation which appears to be part of the Camp Street address.)

B) Carlos Bringuier's copy:

"CARLOS BRINGUIER, Casa Roca, 107 Decatur Street, displayed the (sic) copy of the booklet which bore the name at the top, Basic Pamphlets (14) 'The Crime Against Cuba' by CORLISS LAMONT. This pamphlet was printed by Basic Pamphlets, Box 42, Cathedral Street, New York 25, New York." (CD 75, p. 703; at this point in CD 75, the FBI gives no further information on this pamphlet.)

C) Bill Stuckey's copy:

Stuckey obtained several pamphlets, including this one, when he visited Oswald on August 17, 1963 (11H161); he mentioned it in his taped interview with Oswald that evening (21H624). Stuckey's copy of the pamphlet was not introduced as evidence, and Jenner was not too interested in it (11H161). I do not know if it had the Camp St. address.

D) A copy in the N.O.P.D. Intelligence Division file:

As of September 11, 1964, the Intelligence Division had one copy, which did have the Camp St. address. (See CD 1495.) It is not clear exactly when and by whom this was obtained from Oswald. (It is noted that this copy is not reproduced in CE 1413; I do not yet know whether it is in CD 365, from which CE 1413 was taken.)

E) Copies in Lt. Martello's possession on November 23, 1963:

Martello testified that on the day after the assassination he gave Secret Service agent Vial all of the literature in the file on Oswald (10H56, 10H62). There apparently were 3 copies of the Lamont pamphlet (CE 3119, p. 11). The list of attachments to this CE (p. 24) indicates that the distribution was "1 each to Chief's Office and Dallas," and I presume that the third copy was retained in New Orleans.

CE 3119 comes from the copy of the Secret Service report which was sent to the Chief's office, but the Archives has advised that "Commission Document 87 (Control No. 407) includes only an electrostatic copy of the front cover of the Corliss Lamont pamphlet." I also do not know whether the copy sent to Dallas had the Camp St. address. One copy was found in the N.O. Secret Service office on September 11, 1964, in response to a request from the Warren Commission; this copy, which has the Camp St. address, is CE 3120. (See CD 1495.)

F) Possibility that a copy was in the FBI files before the assassination:

Quigley testified that on August 10, 1963, Lt. Martello showed him various literature that had been obtained from Oswald the previous day. Quigley "reviewed" the material but, as far as I can tell, did not take any (4H432). However, during the interview Oswald "made available" a copy of the Lamont pamphlet and the two FPCC throwaways. Although I have no direct evidence of a copy of the Lamont pamphlet in the FBI files, I believe that Quigley probably kept that copy that Oswald "made available" to him.

On September 11, 1964, SAIC Rice of the N.O. Secret Service was asked by phone to find a copy of the 544 Camp St. literature for the Warren Commission; his report (CD 1495) is dated the same day. He noted that after looking at the FPCC circulars (i.e., the "Hands off Cuba" handbills) in the Secret Service files "I subsequently contacted the local FBI office and was informed that a search would be made of their files for the circular, and up to this time no further information has been received from that office."

It is noted that the "Hands off Cuba" handbill and the FPCC application form are transcribed in full in Quigley's report (17H760-1); it seems likely that this section was typed from copies of the throwaways rather than from Quigley's notes. FBI Exhibit D-25 includes a "Hands off Cuba" circular with the following handwritten notations on the back: the file number "100-16601" (cf. CE 826); illegible initials which may or may not be "JLQ"; and "8/10/63." I expect that this handbill was obtained from Oswald by Quigley, but the Archives has advised that "no cover letter or memorandum relating to FBI Exhibit D-25 has been located in relevant files of the Commission."

Quigley reported that "OSWALD" stated in addition to this he had on his person several copies of a thirty-nine page pamphlet entitled 'The Crime Against Cuba' by CORLISS LAMONT ..." (17H761) I doubt that Oswald said "I have this thirty-nine page pamphlet with me," and the back cover is not numbered as page 40, so I think it is safe to assume that Quigley looked at page 39 himself. If the copy which he saw did have the 544 Camp Street address, I can think of no innocent explanation for the omission of that fact from Quigley's report.

Paul L. Hoch  
March 21, 1968

U. S. Secret Service

Chief - Attention Inspector Kolley

Sept. 11, 1964

*JWR*  
SAIC Rice - New Orleans

Commission No. 1495

Lee Harvey Oswald - Assassination of President Kennedy

This will confirm telephone call on September 11, 1964, from Special Agent Elmer W. Moore, at the office of the Warren Commission, who referred to Page 14, par. 6, of SA A. G. Vial's report dated 12/3/63, wherein reference was made to literature found in possession of Oswald which bore the stamped address "FPCG 544 Camp St., New Orleans, La." SA Moore advised that this particular literature had not been received, and that the Warren Commission was desirous of obtaining same, if available.

I informed SA Moore that I seemed to recall that one of the Fair Play For Cuba Committee circulars distributed by Oswald bore the address of 544 Camp Street, but that we had no circulars bearing this address in our file. SA Moore was informed that further search would be made, and that if necessary the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Police Department Intelligence Division would be contacted to determine if such a circular is available.

I subsequently contacted the local FBI office and was informed that a search would be made of their files for the circular, and up to this time no further information has been received from that office.

Further search of the files of this office disclosed that a pamphlet entitled "The Crime Against Cuba" by Corliss Lamont bears the following rubber stamped impression on Page 39: "F P C C 544 Camp St. New Orleans, La." One copy of this pamphlet was furnished Chief's Office with SA Vial's report dated 12/3/63, and is listed as an attachment. It is not known if the copy furnished with SA Vial's report bore the rubber stamped impression. The one remaining copy in this office is being furnished herewith.

Inquiry was also made of the Intelligence Division, New Orleans Police Department, this date. They have one remaining copy of this same pamphlet, which bears the same rubber stamped address.

In view of the circumstances, it would appear that the comment in SA Vial's report referred to the above mentioned pamphlet, "The Crime Against Cuba" and not to the yellow circulars, some of which bore the stamped impression "A J Hidell, P. O. Box 30016, New Orleans, La." and others "L. H. Oswald, 4907 Magazine Street, New Orleans, La.", copies of which have been furnished your office.

ATTACHMENT: Pamphlet entitled "The Crime Against Cuba" by Corliss Lamont

To Paliak

C.E. 3120

1785