Oswald lit dist; WDSU footage,
FBI, SS handling

12/9/69

Dear Paul,

After breakfast and before getting into the more pressing work, I've been glancing through the printout of the FPCC file. I come to the duplication of the 12/3/63 Brown (FBI) report of his interview with John Corporan and note what I do not recall from other reports and what addresses an apparent mystery I faced in tracing the history of this footage and its copying in various forms. I quote the beginning of the second paragraph:

"Mr. CORPORAN stated that single-frame prints were made of parts of the silent film when Oswald was distributing leaflets and these prints have already been furnished to the FBI and the Secret Service. He stated that a ~~xixxxx~~ duplicate print of the silent film of OSWALD distributing leaflets had been furnished to the Secret Service. He said he was arranging through his film staff to have a copy of all three films clips made today for the FBI..."

This pretty clearly states several things: that the three films were not made into one until 12/3/63, and that WDSU had, in fact, done the printing of the stills for the feebees.

Without checking back on your interview with Rush, I think this also corroborates what led me to ask you to interview him, my belief he had done it. Now this should mean there remain, somewhere, unless thrown away, mislaid or taken, the negatives from which these prints were made.

I plan, when I can, to write the SS and Planer, for I saw none in the archives I can identify as these originals and Planer seemed to think the feds had done their own printing.

On the FPCC file: did you make an inventory of it?

Have you ever made a list of the SS controls and which we have?

At least for the time being, I'll keep this file entirely together. When I have a chance to go over it carefully (and in the casual examination one of the provocative things I've notices is that the Quigley 8/15/63 report of his earlier interview with Oswald seems to be deBruey's repetition of it rather than the original), I'll card each item separately. This will be a large job, and if you've done it in any form, much time would be saved. Much of it is familiar, but I am not certain that all familiar items are identical with what I have/ have seen.

The SS transcription of the "debate" does have the accurate version of Oswadd saying he was " under the protection" of the government and then correcting it (from CR87:236.

Also included is SS Cont 703, which lead to my asking you to see Rush. In this context, the summary (also CR320) leaves no doubt of my interpretation: "Photographs ~~xfxxxxxxxxxx~~ and film clips of Oswald and two other subjects passing out...were obtained..." The film was not then (before 12/2) spliced into a single reel, and the photographs were provided by the stations.

On the things I should have noted before and didn't: CR126 (poss 75), 12/6/63 FBI Hernandez report, is foreshortened and says he spotted LHO 12/9 "as he was passing the International Trade Mart". Not on Canal.

Hurriedly, HW

12/9/69

Mr. Ed Plener, News Director
WDSU-TV
520 Royal St.,
New Orleans, La.

Dear Ed,

The enclosed copy of an FBI report relating to your Oswald footage is for the completeness of your own file, in the event I didn't give it to you earlier. There may yet be more interest in this. Mine is undiminished and unsatisfied.

You will recall I was interested in when the film was spliced together, whether it was then (for whatever reason) further edited, and in the stills you made for the government.

I had a trusted friend interview Johann Rush in San Francisco. It is my recollection he said he printed the stills. A Secret Service report I believe I sent you says, approximately, that. The part of this FBI report I've marked in red says that as of that day, 12/3/63, to your station's knowledge, the three clips were seperate, as I read it. It also seems to say you either printed the photographic stills or had them made.

Now I can assure you that ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ single copy of any of the clips you provided the government reached the National Archives, and the same is true of the stills. It is beyond question that these stills included pictures today without official existence, even though they were the basis of FBI interviews with witnesses (I have these). There is but the spliced version.

I'd appreciate it if you would check and see if you have either the negatives from which the stills were printed or a set of prints. Or, any record pertinent to any of this. There is no doubt there was a third person in on that literature distribution at the ITM, and there is other importance I'll tell you about if you so desire.

Hope you have a good holiday.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg