

DEAR MRS. PORTER,

12/4/88

I've been thinking since our conversation earlier today. First I want to say that I respect your desire to do what you can to clear Lee's name and it is in this sense that I have a suggestion I'd like you and Mr. Porter to consider.

I have not read such things as Priscilla Johnson McMillan's book. The kinds of things that ^I knew would interest her do not interest me and serve no useful purpose. On the other hand I know some things about Lee that are not generally known and that perhaps you do not know. Then there are some things he may have discussed with you that I also would like to discuss with you. Not anything having to do with the assassination or anything like that.

I do know and understand the pressures that were placed on you, again perhaps more than you perceived at the time. I mean by the FBI, those pressures, not the manipulations by the Secret Service through and with Martin.

On this and things like it the FBI disclosed what under the law it should not have disclosed, particularly the phone tap records and, if you did not know it, they also bugged your house before you moved in. They actually wanted to give me the tapes but they not only did not interest me, ^I knew that if they were disclosed to me anyone could have them and I did not want to be party to that.

I am not able to travel so I can't get there. What I ask that you two consider is coming up here and taping our discussion. ^I have no interest in keeping any tapes myself. You can have them or, if you'd prefer, they can be deposited with the rest of my records at local Hood College.

While I do not know if you have any knowledge of some of the things I have in mind discussing about Lee's earlier life I do think that there were some things in the USSR that others did not discuss with you that may have some significance. "one of this would be any reflection on you or on Lee.

As I think back over a few years I can't think of anything I've written about Lee that I would change and nothing about the so-called investigation to which most of my writing and research has been directed. But if you do not want to own the books you should be able to borrow them in Dallas or Fort Worth. Mary Terrell has them. (I'm sorry I could not understand what you said about her. While impaired hearing is one of my infirmities, the trouble was on your phone or in the line.)

When you think of clearing Lee's name, do not expect official admission of error. However, in the public mind, if not in the text books, it can be done and to a degree has ~~been~~ ^{been}. The wrong-headed conspiracy theories contribute to this. That is why I am so disappointed in what Sigel Turner did. He omitted much that was good that he got from me to include the bad stuff at the end. That also tends to discredit what was good in what he did. I think that as an historical record Lee's name may be more cleared than you realize. Nothing about this in my books, for example, has ever been refuted. There ~~is~~ is much more of this in affidavits in court records. While they are permanent records, almost nobody ever sees them.

If you think that at some point you may want to do as I suggest above, I suggest that if and when you read my books you make notes of questions you may want to ask or things that are suggested to you.

Please excuse my typing. It was not very good hunt-and-peck and now it is worse because I've had eye surgery recently. I will ask my wife to read and correct this.

Sincerely,


Harold Weisberg