December 27, 1977

HW

Larry Haapanen
270 Panoramic Drive
Hyrum, Utah 84319

Dear Larry,

Thanks for your letter of the 18th. I've seen bits and pieces of the info you provided before, but as far as I know nobody has put it all together so well before. Is it okay if I pass your letter on to the A.I.B. and other interested researchers? (I know Peter Scott has been interested in Reissman, Dombrowski, etc.)

Enclosed are the pages you requested (50MM,50QQ). The list of FPCC members mentioned in CE 3119 (26H771) was given to the SS, and to the WC as an attachment to SS 407 in CD 87. A copy is enclosed. (My 'original' is barely legible.) Whoever was compiling these records was paying attention to the most amazing details!

A few years ago, I exchanged several letters with Hugh Murray, who was one of the Tulane left-wing crowd. (He was interviewed by the FBI, along with Harold Alderman.) He told me that they suspected before the assassination that Oswald's operation was "probably a trap." I'm enclosing part of his letter of 4/25/73, and the first 4 pages of an article he had written earlier.

By the way, one of the best researchers, Mark Allen, is now living in N.O. He's rather busy with law school, but might be interested in checking out some local angles.

Your point about Jack Minnis is interesting. I wonder if he was ever asked about Oswald? He did write an important article on the assassination in the New Republic. (I think it was on 12/21/63, and dealt mostly with the physical evidence.) The Washington Post reported on 12/9/77 that when Hoover was sent that article, the FBI reacted very strongly - pointing out that Minnis had contacted the Soviet Embassy in 1958, etc.

The Schweiker Report referred briefly to CIA interest in countering the FPCC (pp. 65-67), but it left the impression that nothing was done which could have been related to Oswald. The Washington Post reported on 11/22/77 that the FBI had an actual COINTELPRO-type operation going against the FPCC. As far as I know, nobody has get gone over those documents very carefully. (Anything referring to New Orleans could be relevant.) **

I can't recall any details, but I have a vague idea that the Dombrowski case was in the news recently - perhaps a damage suit finally getting settled.

** For example, DeBrueys has given the impression that Oswald wasn't of particular interest. But, if (as I suspect) the N.O. office was under pressure to come up with anti-FPCC ideas, there could be a lot he hasn't told us. There is already much reason for suspicion in this area. (The Schweiker Committee, by the way, took testimony from DeBrueys (I think), but neither cited it nor released it.)

By the way, I think I have some report or press release from the Louisiana HUAC buried in my files - relating to the FPCC, or SCEF, and Oswald - which I got from the Library of Congress. Nothing special, as I recall; the kind of propaganda described in FBI item 50MM.

I don't know what to make of all this, but I'm sure your feeling that something odd was going on is justified.

With best regards,

Paul

Paul L. Hoch

Hyrum, Utah
Dec. 18, 1977

Dear Paul:

Enclosed is a check for $1.70 to cover the cost of the xerox copies you sent me a week ago.

I'd really appreciate it if you could send me copies of 50MM and 50QQ (9 pages), as I'm intrigued by the interest shown in LHO by the Louisiana Joint Legislative Committee on Un-American Activities and by the Circuit Riders.

LHO seems to have made a systematic effort to connect his activities in NO to Tulane University, where Reissman and LaViolette were professors. Carlos Quiroga stated that LHO "told him he learned to speak Russian at Tulane University . . ." (26 H 771). LHO "reportedly told Charles H. Steele, Jr., that the Fair Play for Cuba Committee circulars which they were passing out had originated at Tulane University . . ." (26 H 705). And one of LHO's FPCC handbills was obtained on the Tulane campus by a student (CD 75, pp. 688-689).

HAROLD "ALDERMAN + HUGH MURRAY

After his arrest in NO, LHO allegedly told Lt. Martello that one of the members of the FPCC at Tulane University was named "John" (10 H 55). This seems to have been true: "AT T-4 advised that JACK MINNIS, Political Science Department, Tulane University, was on the mailing list for Fair Play for Cuba Committee, Room 329, 799 Broadway, New York City" (CD 166, p. 25).

AUTHOR OF ARTICLE W/ LYNO ON ASS'N- NR 12/21/63. SEE ALSO WP 12/9/77 P.1 (FBI DOCS) (JEH RXN TO THIS ARTICLE)

Another thing I've always found particulary interesting is the similarity in the reports of Capt. James Arnold, NOPD, who interviewed LHO on 9/9/63, and Lt. Martello, who interviewed LHO on 9/10/63. Both Arnold and Martello were led by LHO's statements to link him with Professor Reissman; the way in which this happened was almost identical in both interviews (CE 2520; X H 54-55). Martello also asked LHO about either Forrest E. La Violette (X H 55) or Dr. James Dombroski (CE 3119, p. 3), supposedly connected with the same liberal organizations as Reissman.

It so happens that Dr. Dombrowski, at least, was under investigation by the Louisiana Joint Legislative Committee on Un-American Activities and the NO Police Department. He and two of his associates were arrested on 10/4/63, and their homes and the office of the Southern Conference Education Fund (of which Dombrowski was executive director) were raided. The chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee stated that the raid resulted from an 11-month-long investigation by the committee, and the arrests were the first under Louisiana's 1962 Communist Control Act (New York Times, 10/5/63, p. 10).

Dombrowski and his two aides were cleared by a state judge on 10/25/63, and the Southern Conference Education Fund subsequently sued Sen. James Eastland and chief counsel J. G. Sourwine of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, charging that documents seized in the NO raid had been illegally turned over to the SISS (New York Times, 10/26/63, p. 11, and 11/2/63, p. 12).

Was someone using LHO as a misinformation agent against NO liberals like Reissman, La Violette, and Dombrowski? (Also, remember evidence in the Clay Shaw trial that LHO had tried to register to vote during a civil rights voter registration drive in Clinton, Louisiana? Opponents of that particular drive charged that a member of a Communist front organization took part in the drive.)

The Louisiana State Police also seem to have had an active interest in the FPCC. Capt. R. E. Horton of the State Police "said his office also had a list of the members of the Fair Play for Cuba organization and related information but that he could not furnish this unless authorized to do so by Colonel Burbank of the State Police" (26 H 771). Have you ever come across such a list in any of the WC, FBI, or SS files?

CE 3119, p. 19

YES — CD 87, ATT. TO SS 407 (CE 3119)

Thanks again for the xeroxes.

Sincerely,

Larry Haapanen

Larry Haapanen
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Hyrum, Utah 84319

SEND TO:
AIB, HOF, SM, PDS

245-4050
DR + MRS
LARRY + BEVERLY A.

S 12/19 P 1
R 12/21/77