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1/30/93

Dear Henry,

One of the reasons you have not responded to my letter of this past December can be that you do not want to. There can be others, of course, and it is your right not to respond if you do not want to. So, I explain my reason for having asked you to begin with.

I can't find all my notes on what you and Dean Storey told me years ago. I could not get to see Carr and I did not want to write Jaworski. It was more than just clear that he was Washington's farm in seeing to it that the TCI could amount to nothing. The notes I did find have you and Storey both firm in the belief that a record was made of that 1/24/64 session you Texans had with Warren and Rankin only. You were not firm in the belief that a transcript ~~was~~ was made, you were that a record of some kind was. Storey not only believed there was a transcript, he told me he had it and indicated its thickness. Rankin, <sup>who</sup> was as devious as I said, assured that there would be no record other than the one he later made. I have it. It includes almost nothing of what happened and was said. It does include your saying what the Commission thereafter ignored, the reports that Oswald had some connection with a federal agency was not limited to the FBI and did include the CIA. You even gave them a number that is consistent with CIA numberings.

The commission avoided calling Lonnie Hudkins as a witness. The FBI's questionings were hardly adequate as reflected in the brief reports on it. The commission also avoided questioning Joe Goulden. He wrote his story long before Lonnie did. And if it would have been possible for the FBI to get to the root of it, it did no digging to get to that root.

Going along with this Rankin badmouthed you. The FBI did only a little of it, as I now recall limited to denying that it wanted you back and what you know about the Ecuador records. So, of course, I've been wondering why Rankin badmouthed you. The most obvious of the possible explanations is that he did not like what you told them. This makes me more interested in anything you may remember or any records you may have. Rankin saw to it that there would not be any real inquiry and they wound up doing only what they decided to begin with would be inadequate and unacceptable, merely taking Hoover's and McCone's word. Even though Dulles told them that it was right, proper and necessary to lie and that ~~he~~ he did as CIA director lie. Perhaps it was that he knew those under him did. He did say that he might not tell the secretary of defense the truth.

All of this leads to the suspicion that they had some reason to credit the report that Oswald had had some connection with some federal agency. They never once mentioned ONI even though Oswald learned Russian in the Marines. On its part ONI never conducted any real investigation when Oswald "defected." Even though he had an exceptionally high security clearance not recorded on any Navy record. But I have solid proof of it.

I told you I've completed the draft of a very long book. When I began it, although it is in the form of a book, my purpose was to make a record for our history whether or not it is published. I have no agent and I've not taken the time to try to find one. I have a friend who may or may not do something with the book when he has the manuscript a few chapters of which remain to be retyped. The friend who is retyping it is a professional historian who is one of two historians who are authentic subject experts. He is high on it and says it is the best book on the assassination yet. The other, also a dear friend, based on having read about the first third, says it should "revolutionize" thinking about the JFK assassination. So, I feel that perhaps I have made the record I wanted to make for our history. I hope it will be published but do not know if it will be.

That book is an inclusive overview that includes some of the quarter of a million pages of FBI records I got by all those FOIA lawsuits. Among other things it proves, with documents, that there was an official conspiracy as soon as Oswald <sup>was</sup> dead to see to it that the crime would not be investigated. Top-level and completely documented. (My ~~own~~ own belief is that this could have been because they did not have the slightest idea what had happened, did know whether they could learn, and wanted to preserve domestic tranquility. Hoover was a party to it. His reason could have been face-saving.)

So I've turned to drafting a manuscript about Oswald that, whether or not it is published will also be a record for our history.

I was not able to do much more on it after last writing you for a number of reasons. These range from the disturbances and problems caused by a furnace blowback that deposited a film of soot on every surface in the house and everything in it to some new medical problems. The house has been cleaned by a professional crew but the medical problems remain to be addressed. The newest is that I need an examination for polyps. Ordinarily that can be outpatient. My friend the retired local chief of police tells me it was with him and he did have polyps removed. But my blood is so anxious to clot that my previous "outpatient" surgery, for a cataract removal, had me in Johns Hopkins for five days and it went well. No complications. Only ~~one of the two~~ <sup>two</sup> of my numerous surgeries, not followed by some thrombosis. So, I'm exploring this one slowly in the hope it can be done safely locally. There are also some indications of the coming need for another prostate job. The first one, also normally outpatient, had me confined for close to three months because of the thromboses that local plumber went out of his way to give me.

During these several months, however, I've gone over some notes, some of what I wrote years ago and some records. Not continuously and not without distractions. But this review again focuses my interest on why Rankin was so hung up on what Carr did say and why he went out of his way to badmouth you.



Going along with this is the lingering mystery about Yuri Nosenko. He was a KGB official who defected, after trying to a year earlier, in February after the JFK assassination. There were those in the CIA who tried desperately to prevent it. They failed and he was in Washington, being treated like a prince. Then Nosenko was interviewed by the FBI. He told it that the KGB suspected that Oswald was an American sleeper agent and had him under surveillance that included his mail when he was in Minsk. He also said that Oswald was openly anti-USSR within the USSR. When the CIA got that Nosenko's treatment went from princely to of unprecedented bestiality. Some in the CIA toyed with ways of killing him or driving him crazy. One left notes relating to flying him over the ocean and dropping him in it. This went on for three years. He was finally cleared, paid and hired as a consultant. There never never was any reason to doubt he was a genuine defector. This and more I have from records I got that are far from complete. With it I have Oswald's writings. There is no doubt he was anti-USSR and anti US Communist. No doubt at all!

This, too, tends to make the report of which you knew, that he had had some connection with some agency, much more interesting and provocative. And leads me to write you again.

So also does some of my work in New Orleans. I spent what time I could there trying to learn more about Oswald. I had no interest in Shaw. I assumed, as it turned out wrongly, that Garrison had a case or he'd not have filed it. Whatever Oswald was up to in New Orleans, he was not alone in it, as the FBI and the Commission pretend. He did not, for example, pick up the print job on the leaflet he distributed. The FBI and Rankin knew this and did nothing with it except obscure it and not investigate it.

So, again whether or not it can now be published, I'm working on a manuscript that will make a better record for history on Oswald and how that was handled in the official investigations.

One mystery that may interest you is that as soon as the New Orleans FBI learned that the Secret Service was working on what I learned about Oswald not getting that print job himself, it contacted FBIHQ and in notime flat it got the Secret Service to lay off. There are other New Orleans mysteries, including the kidnapping of a boy who was present when Oswald was in Bringuier's store, if you remember that business. The boy could prove that what Bringuier testified to on when that was false. Dating it in August, the official mythology, rather than in May, covered provocative activities by Oswald in the interim. I have this boy on tape, with his mother and the family's lawyer present, giving me an account of his two weeks of captivity outside of Garrison's jurisdiction. One of his captors, to make it more provocative but not necessary an important fact, is the man who had recruited Oswald into the CAP and was a friend of David Ferrie's.

This does not exist in any official record, not the FBI's and not Garrison's. Is it not to wonder why? The kidnapped kid ignored three Garrison grand jury subpoenas. I got the confidence of his parents, got Garrison to promise to leave him alone if he spoke to me,

and insisted that the interview be in the presence of the family lawyer. This was in the boy's interest and to reassure the family. I knew the boy was gay.

I kept my word to Garrison. I ~~gave~~<sup>gave</sup> him an account of the interview and he had no interest in it at all. He also had no interest when some of his staff sought to undermine my source on this kid. I expected one of those involved in that to jump me when I was arguing with Garrison about their not keeping their word to leave these kids alone. My source was then a kid, too.

I don't want to leave something hanging. When I interviewed the kid who'd been kidnaped with the sanction of his parents and learned that he had been questioned over a two-week period he did not come up with any recollection of what he had been asked that could have been of interest to the police of two jurisdictions who questioned him. He recalled the chaff but not what they were really interested in. I'm sure this is because they worked that in carefully and a little at a time so he did not perceive it. Either that or he fooled me. I don't believe he had that intent but I can't rule it out.

So, friend, have I given you an idea of why I am interested in any record or recollection you may have of that 1/24/64 session Rankin went to so much trouble to keep without any real record of it?

And why ~~hij~~ saw to it that he and Warren only were present when you were questioned?

One of the great tragedies, to me at least, of the JFK non-investigation is that the wise and experienced Senator Russell misread LBJ's intentions in appointing him to the Commission. Russell, who encouraged my work until his dying day, believed and told me it was to keep him from leading the anti-civil rights fight in the Senate. It wasn't at all. LBJ was trading on his and on all the other names. He did the unprecedented. He appointed an overwhelming majority of the minority party. The two Democrats were not JFK fans. Russell ~~believed~~<sup>was</sup> and told me "they have not told us all they know about Oswald." But was not there often enough to do or learn anything. He told me he fooled Johnson and did spend his time leading that Southern fight against civil rights legislation.

Russell did believe, however, that Oswald was red and that is what he thought they were holding from him. He never defined "they" but gave me the impression it was both the FBI and the CIA in his mind.

I close with a word of friendly caution. Some time ago several Baltimore policemen who were working with a writer named Livingstone spoke to you. Livingstone has flipped out and is off on the wildest conspiracy notions. He actually says that Rookstool of the FBI is helping him. You know what change Rookstool has of surviving in the FBI if he were to help disprove the FBI's story! That whole thing is liable to blow up into a new scandal. So I suggest caution and not being involved in it.

Rookstool, not telling me he was FBI, was in touch with me several times several

years ago. He said he was a graduate student. Wanted to come. I invited him. He never came. He'd said he had a "rare" picture of me. When he didn't come and I saw the correspondence, I asked him for the picture. He sent me a copy. I was able to identify when and where it was taken, wrote and asked him how he got a copy of that, and he never replied. I'd paid no attention to his address until then. It was the FBI's office.

And the FBI had not provided that picture or anything related to it in response to my request for all information on or about me. Dallas and Los Angeles had these records. Neither provided anything related to it.

The picture was taken by a critic in his back yard the day I was able to buy a duplicate of that Oswald rifle.

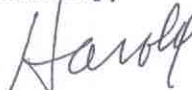
I hope the weather permits your keeping your golf game up and <sup>you</sup> get that exercise.

I'm off to my predawn walking at a shopping center, almost the only exercise I'm allowed.

I hope you now have a better idea why I'm interested in that 1/24/64 session.

Thanks and best wishes,

sincerely,



Harold Weisberg