

3/10/69

Dear Paul,

I presume you are busy with school. This requires no immediate response, because my needs are not immediate.

The Ray deal, which I had sort of feared from the time Foreman got in on it, more at the time of the rumor ~~and~~ he was taking over the Shaw defense and his contrived response, is too much on my mind to do other work requiring concentration. My initial hunch is that this will be helpful, especially because there seems to be some parallel with Sirhan: open and official elimination of the possibility of conspiracy being aired in a trial.

So, I've been catching up on a little re-filing left over from when I expected to be working in N.O. during the trial, and was preparing for what I had been told to expect, not what eventuated. I came across your letters of February 7 and March 2, 1968, from Bahmer. They refer to McGeorge Bundy's memo, of which I'd like a copy. With them I had your letter to me of March 4, 1968. I had completely forgotten it and its contents.

That business of Nat Pinkston, always an interesting figure, being on the 6th floor TSB "immediately after the assassination" remains fascinating. Have you come across any more on him/it?

I did not recall your interest in CE710. As you know, I do have it, if you recall COUP, and I use it therein. Do you want a copy now?

When I get back to AGENT OSWALD, I'll be exploring that Kaack business again. Now it is in the dim recesses. My recollection is that an affidavit from him is conspicuously absent. I will also go further with some of the N.O. material in some sense, some perhaps in Agent OSWALD. One likely is Ampolsk. If you hooked onto any of the fish then in your mind, I hope you made a note and can eventually send it to me.

I have been working on the appendix I'd like to include in COUP if I can get it printed. It will include some things not in the text. One is the border - Minutemen threat. I sent one of you copies of those documents some time ago. They deal with a fellow named Shand, a Colonel Rivers, etc. I have also added the Khrushchev - handbill - Minutemen stuff. Things like that, relating to the radical right. If you have any suggestions, I'd appreciate them. Or contributions. I think I sent Hal the Shand stuff. I am pasting this material in place so that when I have all of it together I can go over the text and it and annotate both. And by having the documents mounted I not only know what I have, I also know how much space there is for notes.

You also made reference to Doyle. I spoke to him three different times. Each time he promised to send the film but never did. I wonder why, for he seemed anxious to do it, put out at the FBI's alterations. I'll get around to writing him someday.

Sincerely,

2537 Regent St., Apt. 202
Berkeley, Calif. 94704
March 4, 1968

Harold Weisberg
Route 7
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Harold,

No major news but a few goodies:

CD 179 indicates that sometime in 1961 a person using Oswald's name and address and posing as pro-Castro attempted to buy a car in New Orleans. This may be of interest in light of the Deslatte affair. (Copy of pages 1 and 2 enclosed; I do not have the rest yet.) (As far as I know, this CD was first noticed by Josiah Thompson in 1966; I learned of it through his notes.)

Allegations have been made about unidentified "federal agents" at the scene of the assassination. It seems strange that FBI agent Nat Pinkston was on the sixth floor of the TSB "immediately after the assassination" but did not testify as to what he saw (26H801).

Having reread the relevant testimony, both Stan and I feel that the person Doyle and Wilson took to be Oswald's companion on August 9, 1963, may have been Celso Hernandez.

From the Archives:

CD 1359 is withheld "at the request of" the FBI.

CE 710 "has not been found in the Commission's records." (!) (Cf. 4H193-4)

"No cover letter or memorandum relating to FBI Exhibit D-25 has been located in the relevant files of the Commission." (This is interesting because D-25 includes a handbill apparently obtained by Quigley from Oswald on 8/10/63; as you know, I am interested in the Corliss Lamont pamphlet presumably obtained at the same time.)

The more I look at CE 826, the Kaack report, the fishier it appears. The testimony and the reports in the appendix to O in N.O. give, I think, a substantially different picture of the FBI's knowledge of Oswald's activities. The "summary" at WR 435-437 is, to say the least, inadequate. (More on all this later.) If you have documents relating to Oswald's activities in August 1963 which are not in your appendix to O in N.O., I would appreciate copies or references.

Sincerely,

Paul

Paul L. Hoch