

*O. See the name  
O-444*

5/29/69

Dear Paul,

Your welcome mailing of the 26th arrived today. I'm particularly glad to get the data on the Freedom of Information Act and will read it tonight, preparatory to writing letters, of which I'll send copies.

As soon as I saw that enormous job of Jim's on the phone numbers I checked out those on Oswald when shot. I was satisfied at least two had to be Abt, and they were. Nor am I surprised at his having the police number, for that could be to give to others, to reach him. But that he had the Daily Worker number and there is no reference to this in the Report, which was so anxious to pin a phony "red" label on him is surprising.

What can this mean? One of the obvious possibilities is that, when he had the use of the phone he got it from the information operator. Somewhere I believe I have a copy of that slip of paper. Or, perhaps I made notes on it from CD 87, which is my recollection of the source, when I went through it in the Spring of 66. If I don't have the original, I must ask for it. (I've asked my Senator, who is a timid friend) to ask the Archives why then cannot respond to proper inquiries until after two months passes.) I want to be satisfied that it exists. Then, that it is in his handwriting.

One of the things that has interested me since you sent the McDermid report is the absence of any slip of paper with his number and name. Fritz, I believe, testified he gave this or had it given to Oswald. But behind Fritz there is never a written record (authority, Henry Wade!). It is unlikely LHO would have thrown such a name and number away, if he got it. The record of the police does not inspire confidence in the Fritz version. It is more likely, I think, that they wanted O to be without counsel so they might get him to talk. The first thing a good lawyer would have done, you can be sure, is to latch the Oswald lip, on anything. And the DPD knew it.

So, if anyone has any ideas why O had the Worker number on him when killed, I'd like to hear them.

Congratulations on passing the exams. Just let me know when to say "doctor".

Fascinating also how the Commission lawyers asked questions only so they would not be answered. There is half an answer in CD978(CE1961): Thornley, as usual, was wrong on the withdrawal of O's clearance (which places him at El Toro almost to the time Oswald left, may I add) or worse than wrong. The one thing he could not have been is right. From my own experience, when a discharge is pending, that is practise, no assignment. On the security clearance, that is not answered, not in any way. It is avoided. And it should have been in the covering letter, for a direct answer required little time or space. A direct answer is possible. But it is all evasions, if you read CE1961 carefully. Do not get it for me, but if you have gotten a copy, I plan to use it and would appreciate it. Otherwise, when I get to that, I'll get a copy for facsimile use. This also removes all Commission (lawyer) innocence on the subject. They knew Thornley was wrong (yet Liebelar quoted him) and they knew they had no answer, and at least Donovan and Thornley indicated a minimum secret clearance. Very helpful. If any of you come across any more of this, please let me know.

Hoover's letter of 11/8/63 to State, I presume, is part of the deBrueys report. Is it not interesting that the stamped date by the Passport Office is 11/22? The fifth day after receipt, that it took 10 days to go that

far inside State, that in the absence of any evidence it existed there is carded a "New Orleans Division" of EFCC? That the FBI was also readying something else, listing this under Registration Act-Cuba, as its "character". I'll have to read this carefully, but the synopsis disguises the earlier FBI investigation.

This copy apparently was supplied by the State Department. You may have told me but I do not recall, did a copy come from the FBI?

Gotta stop for a while.

Many thanks. Congratulations. Have a nice holiday.

Best,

JLR:JHE:cj - T. 5/16/64

MAY 19 1964

Lt. Col. Allison G. Folsom *Law*  
Records Branch  
Personnel Department  
Headquarters, United States Marine Corps  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Colonel Folsom:

The Marine Corps records supplied us reveal that on 3 May 1957, Lee Harvey Oswald was granted "clearance to handle classified matter up to and including Confidential." However, we have received sworn testimony from John E. Donovan, who was Assistant Operations Officer and Training Officer at Marine Air Control Squadron No. 9 in Santa Ana, to the effect that Oswald's job required a Secret clearance.

Moreover, two of Oswald's fellow enlisted men at MACS-9 have testified that Oswald lost his clearance and was therefore relegated to non-sensitive jobs.

It would be helpful to the work of the Commission if you would determine whether Oswald ever received clearance to handle higher than Confidential material, and whether any clearance given to him was taken away. If you have any questions concerning this request, please contact Mr. John Hart Ely of our staff by telephone.

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

cc: Mr. Rankin  
Mr. Willens  
Mr. Ely

J. Lee Rankin  
General Counsel



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OS PRE 6

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

May 25, 1964

Honorable J. Lee Rankin  
General Counsel, President's Commission  
on the Assassination of President Kennedy  
200 Maryland Avenue, N. E.  
Washington, D. C. 20002

Dear Mr. Rankin:

In response to your letter of May 4, 1964, to the Deputy  
General Counsel and to your letter of May 19, 1964, to  
Lt. Col. Allison Folsom, Headquarters, United States Marine  
Corps, attached is a report of the Director of Personnel,  
Headquarters, United States Marine Corps, containing the  
information requested by those letters. #978

Sincerely yours,

Frank A. Bartimo  
Assistant General Counsel  
(Manpower)

Attachment

See EX 1961