

4/27/69

Dear Dick,

I have not sent the letter to Playboy because I am certain the timing, formulation and approach are wrong for them. If you feel otherwise, shed th attention Mr. Goode and use my name.

They agonize over coming to see me for months, then didn't. They sweated over some of my unpublished stuff and then didn't go for it. Their explanation is that they would publish nothing again on the subject unless they could solve the crisis. You know what the Barkley signature on what I have it and the authorization of sensational, scandalous things. They saw faces and many others in February, 1969. Now we also know they hav not ended treatment of the subject, for they are publishing-commissioned-dirkwood. So, it boils down to a fear to handle energy in special forums, like int views.

It is better to approach them with the completed article, for they do not know you. Failing in that, then a simple letter would be much more effective and have none of the (for them) liabilities of your approach. (no is stipulating agreement with dirkwood. They will find it an unacceptable stipulation and would reject it this fast alone. It may also be a mechanical impossibility. If you want me to elaborate, I will.

Besty comment on the addition to the sections on cents:

Page 1- par. 2 do you not want to note that the case also gets marked? "ball traces" or "ball visible traces"; par 3 "alleg-ly" before ordered; par. 6, can we postulate that no bullet was fired from the cases?; six, " Oswald" rifle, quote to ~~XXXXX~~ indicate lack of positive proof it was his or that he even ordere it.

Page 2-lines 295, why nd indicate no fingerprints on shells, unusual for actual use as significant if wanted; par 3, is it only the firing-pin marking the frames knew was needed, or did you restrict it to this for a purpose?

Page 3- par 1, "directed" or "ordered" rather than "caused", and I think that he & you should lean on the Commission, really its lawyers, with references to the character and limitations of the questions, for, technically, a witness is restricted to responding to questions. Frazier did not design this. Was he been told to line out what had happened, this is what he would have done. He was given a job to do. He did that job, nothing else. Relevant here is what you discovered with the trajectory, etc. If you were in a position where you could ask him or get an answer, he would say - did what I was asked to do, nothing else.

I have lost the range-master's phone but will get in touch soon.

Be sort the Lincoln.

Nothing else new, save that Conway is going out of business. I have a young hel in transition now.

Hurriedly,

22 April 1969

Harold:

The enclosed letter <sup>to Playboy</sup> will explain what I am after. I do not know about these matters, and cannot properly judge whether this is right or hwther I am acting prematurely.

I am acting now only because I think that this would make a great foil for James Kirkwood's crap.

Please think it over and decide for me.

If you decide that this is unwise, then throw away the letter and copies, and forget about it.

If you think it is all right to go ahead, then please address and mail the letter to Playboy and the copy to Nicholas.

Here is what is lacking in research as of now:

- 1) confirmation that the dents were caused as I described on p.8 of the article.
- 2) eyeball inspection of the three cartridge cases and Frazier's two test cases; i.e. a search for ~~evidence~~ other evidence that the cases did not fire bullets.

I have slightly revised some parts that I already sent you and added three pages which will appear at the end od the section on the dents. Those three pages are included.

For the time being, I ~~am~~ am taking it for granted that Frazier fired the two test cartridges without bullets, in an effort to make exact duplicates of the three evidence case. It is hard to believe that he would do anything so stupid, but there seems no other explanation; I can think of nothing else at all that explains it.

Dick

Bernabei

P.S. Be sure to fill me what you do in Playboy