

8/24/70

Dear Jim,

It had been so long, I'd thought you'd forgotten. Your letter of the 21st is a pleasant surprise. I wish I thought it likely I'd be able to accept your kind invitation in the near future. I will be happy to, if the opportunity provides itself.

There are several things that are of particular interest. I write to see if you can amplify them. Or, perhaps, correct them.

Where you say he was aware that some of the leaflets had the Newman Bldg. address, you say, "Yeah, and Sergio and them were right down the hall". Are you reasonably certain this is precisely what he said? If it is, it does present a few problems I'd rather not share with you now, in order not to color anything, to avoid "feedback".

If Ronnie had so little contact with Oswald, what is the basis of his opinions, "I don't think he knew who he was really working for." and "He was a very confused young man". Oswald comes in off the street, a total stranger, applies for a job, and Ronnie knows all these things from a single, brief interview? And of all the advertising and p.r. agencies, the only one to which Oswald applies for a job is Ronnie's? I find myself wondering if someone put him up to it? I am not suggesting anything against Ronnie (we have mutual friends who think highly of him), but, while wondering why LHO went there, I also wonder how Ronnie came by such knowledge, unless LHO was there more than once or others told him, which leads to something else. Not doubting his estimate of 100 hours of questioning, what in the hell can consume so much time with a man who has no knowledge? If we could learn what the FBI seemed to be interested in, it might tell us more about what is suppressed. And could they have used some of this time planting ideas, perhaps so subtly Ronnie didn't detect it?

If you know the names of the agents who questioned him, I'll try and get copies of the reports. If I do, I'll send copies. He should have them for his own protection, for who knows what lurks in the future? Some are unfaithful.

Aside from these things, when you get talking to him again, see if he knows anything about Ferris and his friends (like Martens) who were also with Arcacha and if he remembers any FBI agents attending Frente meetings.

I would, indeed, be interested in your recent research. Can you indicate the subjects? The contents would take much too long, and I've little time for correspondence right now and for the immediate future.

It has been a long time since I've heard anything from anyone in the Garrison office. I do not even know if they are still active.

One other thing wasn't clear. Was it Garrison's men or the FBI who questioned him extensively about Arcacha? That Garrison would, I'd assume. And by the way, I agree with him that Arcacha did not send Oswald to him.

Sincerely,

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August 21, 1970

Dear ^{Harold} ~~Mr.~~ Weisberg,

It was so good to hear from you last May, and thanks so much for the background information you supplied regarding Ronny Caire, and sorry I am so long in reporting back.

^{+ worked for} Although Ronny and I are very good friends (I've known ^{him} for several months), I was still hesitant to approach the subject of his knowledge about Oswald in New Orleans, mainly for the reasons you mentioned. Nevertheless I stayed late at the office (which is in the top floor of their home, rebuilt recently since Camille) one afternoon and helped he and his very charming wife Katy hang drapes. While working, I brought up my interest in the case, minimizing my work and knowledge of it, and avoiding all mention of my association with Garrison, and yourself. In other words, I let him do all the talking. At times, I really had to restrain myself, especially during his vituperative indictments of those who have gotten "wealthy" writing about the case (Manchester excluded), and his vehement dislike of Jim Garrison, which I could not account for. "He's a textbook case of a multiple schizophrenic and paranoid," Ronny advised me; "the reason he went after Shaw was in retaliation for stealing that boy away from him." He elaborated, "Yeah, Garrison is not a homosexual; he's a heterosexual." (I silently amused myself at this; I'm sure from the remainder of his remarks on the subject that he meant bisexual, but for a man who's "been around", he has obviously never seen Jim's wife, the husband of whom could hardly be anything but faithful!) I think the discussion ended somewhere around that time, as I tired of his usual manner of making libelous statements (not in print, of course) about which he really has no real knowledge or supporting information. However, my discussion did yield some elucidation on matters about which he was knowledgeable. Such as Sergio Arcacha Smith.

He himself began the discussion with Arcacha. "Well, I had Sergio Arcacha Smith working for me (in his public relations firm) at that time, and you know he was one of those Garrison accused." Point blank--did he think Arcacha was involved in a C.I.A.-inspired plot to kill President Kennedy? "No, no-- Sergio was interested in two things-- one, making a living for himself and his family, and two, getting back into power in Cuba." He had no idea why Oswald came to see him, and scoffed at my suggestion that Arcacha inspired it. And that was his only idea why Oswald

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had his address in his notebook-- he wanted a job. He did agree, in answer to my question, that Oswald could have been a counter-espionage intelligence agent. "Yeah, he could have been working for both sides. I don't think he knew who he was really working for. He was a very confused, very disturbed young man." No, he never saw Oswald distributing pro-Castro literature, but he ~~was~~ ^{is} aware that some of the early leaflets had the address of the Newman building. "Yeah, and Sergio and them were right down the hall." But he did not think they were affiliated, either with each other, or together or separately involved with the C.I.A. But, I said, "all of these people were such weirdos and kooks that Garrison implicated." I was thinking primarily of Oswald, Ferrie, et als, but he interrupted, "Not Sergio! No, Sergio was no kook. He was a very brilliant fellow." But not connected with the C.I.A., as far as he knew.

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He had indeed been questioned extensively before about Arcacha, as you mention by the F.B.I., and also later by two of Garrison's investigators. "Yeah, they asked me about Arcacha, and I said wait a minute I'll get out his personnel folder. And I showed them a snapshot I had of him in his records, and they were ecstatic. I thought they were going to have a Roman orgy over it." Nevertheless, I was sure that even from the "100 hours" of intensive questioning very little enlightenment was produced. Of course, I do agree that he and the dozens of others who knew the real Oswald in New Orleans should have been called to give the true picture before the Warren Commission, and I hope will be, before a new official inquiry panel of Congress, which will publish and make public all of its records.

In the meantime, I hope you always consider that you (and your wife, whom I've never met) have a ~~ts~~ standing invitation to join me down here on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. I live in a large, modern home about a block and a half from the beach, completely renovated since Camille, with an empty guest bedroom, and would be deeply honored to have you as guests anytime. I would also welcome the opportunity to discuss my recent research with you, and to hear of your latest work; perhaps I could be of some help. And I would be happy to drive you over to New Orleans (about an hour and half drive, via Interstate 10) to talk to Garrison. Meanwhile, please do keep in touch; use enclosed envelope when you have time-- I'd be delighted to hear anything from you.

Your friend,

Jim