

12/24/66

Dear Mr. Feldman,

I've just returned from a rather successful trip to the west coast where everyone was wonderful except Liebeler, who avoided me to the extent of keeping on the opposite side of the continent from wherever I was, although he had agreed to confrontations I never expected. Hence I'm farthur behind that usual.

You may be correct about the Pena passport, and this may not be the only mistake any of us makes where we take the Commission's evidence at face value. It and the others like it are their mistakes that we reproduce. The interrogation of Pena indicates he applied for his passport the same day as Oswald, with the implication he should have then seen Oswald, as I now recall it. Remember, I finished writing WHITEWASH almost two years ago.

I'd appreciate it if you call to my attention anything else you think may be erroneous, especially in WHITEWASH II, which I believe may achieve normal publication some time in the future. This includes even typographical errors, for I want it to be as accurate as possible.

If you and Vince have any suggestions for documents to be included in WHITEWASH III, I'd appreciate suggestions immediately, for I want to rush it out. There is already considerable interest in it and I've got an invitation to introduce it on coast-to-coast TV, which will help what we are all trying to do very much. There seems little likelihood of breaking even on it (I hope to be a "literary scavenger", eventually, on the first two) but I believe it will be helpful and can do much good. I never had a chance to explain it to Vince because he could not get to WCAU early enough for us to chat and had to leave before I was finished.

I plan three or four chapters on the transfer of documents, the pictures and Xreys, etc., already written, and one I want to write, on the witnesses and pictures ignored. I'd especially like to know what pictures you all noticed that were not used, even the obvious ones, for working at the pace I do there is just too much opportunity to overlook or forget. Vince may be interested in knowing I have an FBI report on pictures taken from the Depository during the assassination and not in even the files! The photographer was not a witness. But I may overlook the obvious. The rest of the book will be photographic reproduction of the documents I have gotten, with perhaps a brief commentary where reduction allows some space at the bottoms of pages. If any of you recommends any documents or provides me with any, if there is appropriate reference to the writing of others, including magazine pieces, I'd like them also, for I'd like to include them but will not have time to look them up. I've had to give up what would be profitable to do this.

Ray Marcus's Bastard Bullet should be available in about a week. His address is P.O. Box 35363, LA, Calif.

Thanks for your good wishes.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

12/20/66 Please send me a copy of Whitewash II with bill.

4616 Larchwood Avenue
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FOREIGN LANGUAGE SERVICE

Harold Feldman
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12/16/1966

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I am glad I found what I think is a mistake in your book as it gives me an occasion to write to you. It is a mistake I myself have made and I believe all the other investigators repeat the same error. It concerns the Orest Pena passport.

Page 131 of Whitewash: You say the teletyped list of 25 pasppowb applicants with Oswald's name "bore no identificatdona of the office of origin" "according to the Report".

I think this is an assumption on your part. I don't think the Report says this (although one might think so by its reason for the NO on the teletype). - On the other hand, it seems likely that the number "561" at the top of the listing (XVIII, 324) refers to the New Orleans office, a code number probably.

Now about Pena: Page 131 says "the Commission had established that (a) Pena had applied for a passport the same day as Oswald; (b) had not gotten his in 24 hours." You refer to volume XI, page 360. There is no reference to the 24-hour interval in Pena's testimony as far as I can see.

Look at the copy of Pena's passport application in volume 21, page 43. His signature is date stamped 6/24/1963. In the upper right hand corner is a "Passport Office Use Only" block which contains the notation: "Passport Issued Jun 25 '63".

Now this is the same as the notations on Oswald's passport application shown in XVII, 666-7, except that the cashier's receipt stamp on Oswald's paper is dated 6/24/63 while the cashier stamp on Pena's is dated 6/25/63. This would indicate that Pena's application was made much later in the day than Oswald's.

That Pena did not get his passport in 24 hours is sometimes inferred from the fact that his name is not on the famous NO listing, but it is doubtful that only 25 persons applied at the New Orleans passport office that day. There were probably other listings for the same day or the next morning, one of which had Pena's name on it.

Why didn't the Commission publish the N.O. listing with Pena's name and settle this particular question and also the question of the "NO" marking as a regular procedure?

Maybe sloppiness, maybe because no question about this point had yet been raised, maybe to avoid the whole intriguing problem of the "NO" next to Oswald's name.

On the 24-hour passport interval again, I have a Phila. Evening Bulletin report of 11/3/66 about a plan to open a passport office in this city which would cut the issuance time from 10-14 days as at present to one-day handling.

So much for this. Let me know if you think I am wrong. And let me express my deepest admiration and gratitude for your grand book. It is a treasure in this house.

Best wishes,

Harold Feldman