

1/14/71

Dear Bud,

Here is a carbon of the comment you asked me to send to Popkin.

Please forgive my candor, but anything else would not be an act of friendship.

As you know, I have never had a high opinion of Popkin's performance or knowledge. But that he knows so little he would trouble you with that awful crap? Does he have to know any fact at all to recognize that sick stuff for what it is?

But he has to know close to nothing not to recognize the obvious things his correspondent added together with little imagination or subtlety.

I have a file of clippings on Castillo. They are worthless save as a record of what the polluted sea washes up.

I didn't want to embarrass Popkin with more detail, for to do so would be to tell him he is ignorant of the subject in which he brith published and set himself up as the judge of others. Example, the Wisconsin foolishness is a transparency of a false report involving, as I remember, something called the Red Fox Inn.

New Orleans: Garrison; Chicago: President's cancelled trip, Klein's, etc.

Woof!

1/14/71

Dear Mr. Popkin,

Bud Fensterwald has sent me six paragraphs signed by V. Arcega with the request that I send comments directly to you.

Briefly, it is rubbish - all of it. Where it bears relationship to anything, it is a paraphrase of the case of one Luis Castillo, well reported in the press, here and in Manila. What appeared here says Castillo is sick and undependable. A story or two in the Manila papers (I have them somewhere but he isn't worth the trouble) suggests possibly Castillo had read something and mimiced it.

The first paragraph is close enough to be Castillo. What is not description is nonsense. That is, what is not insane, like the 500 yards bit.

The second paragrag fairly obviously refers to Ferris, who was then in court in New Orleans, in the company of Regis Kennedy, FBI (who apparently didn't see fit to report it except in private). No reason to believe a 45 figures in this in any way, with or without Oswald.

Save for the last sentence, the third paragraph seems to derive from published but inaccurate reports from Chicago and Wisconsin.

Need I point out that the fourth seems to have been inspired by the RFK case?

Luis is quite a boy to pass for both Sirhan and Oswald, so good he should qualify as Oswalds 2 through 20.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg