

9/3/70

Dear Tom,

Having just completed some writing that has occupied most of my time recently, I began to do some filing. I found copies of some of the things for which I recently asked you, so I write to eliminate any work possible for you and to correct a possible misapprehension.

You will recall my interest in your first knowledge of Ferris as "Farris", also as "Farry", the way it appears in the Merina transcript, CD 344:45. From the documents at which you glanced it appeared that Agents Garrett and Rice did not interview Ferris until approximately 12:35 a.m. 11/23/63 and that J. Philip Stein phoned at 11 p.m. 11/24. Neither of these would have made your knowledge in time to have Merina questioned possible. However, the first page of your Control 820, of which I found a relatively clear copy in what had been sent me by the Archives, reports that one Donald Mitchell did phone your New Orleans office at 5 p.m. 11/24. I believe that, if you have no other recollection, this could have been relayed to and from you in time to account for the question asked of Merina.

Rereading this report also answers the question, did the FBI interview Ferris before you did. It did not but reported to your agents afterward.

This mailing also included the last two pages of your Control 61. The last sentence on the penultimate page interests me, if you can provide any further information. It reads, "The landlady at 4007 Magazine said that Oswald had very few visitors and the only regular visitor he had was a Latin American male". It would seem that this was covered in reports from New Orleans as well as phone calls (indicated at top of page). I am interested in this man's identification and the absence of reference to Ferris's having gone to that address to make inquiries. I understand the letter was testified to in the Clay Shaw trial. I have no transcript of that testimony.

Page 19 of your Control 407 was also included. It gives no reason for the interview with Vesbel. I suggested this may have been because of his broadcast and asked you if you have the tape. The last line reminds me that you have never responded to my question, why was it necessary to get an additional print of the WDSU footage? The records date the first copy in the Archives, from both you and FBI. This says you got a print 11/26/63. Have these two rolls ever been checked for editing, especially of the appearance of the other Oswald helper?

Page 4 of your control 448, also included, says "a separate report will be submitted" on Ferris. Can this be identified at the Archives or in your files? Can it be one of those missing?

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg