

Dear Mr. Ginocchio,

1/21/84

Thanks for your letter of the 19th. Sorry the books seem to have been delayed reaching your library.

Your math professor may well be correct and I may have overlooked the Oswald autopsy in the appendix of Post Mortem. I wrote the book over a long period of time, beginning, as I now recall, in early 1967. I think I did make ~~some~~ some comparisons in Whitewash II. (PM published late 1975.)

For the benefit of your faculty member who is troubled over Russell, this additional explanation, in part based on what Russell told me.

He believed, and I do not doubt him, although I am aghast that he could have believed it, that the real reason LBJ put him on the Commission was to keep him from leading the fight against civil rights legislation. He told me that he thought he had talked Johnson out of appointing him, only to then hear that LBJ had actually appointed him and, as a practical matter, he then could do nothing about it. Except lead the fight against that legislation and largely ignore the work of the Commission. I'm sure his office received copies of what all the members got, but, trusting recall, he attended only six Commission sessions. I think this does not include the executive sessions. In any event, as a result of his spending less time on the Commission's work he had less knowledge of it. However, it is his doubts that forced the 9/6/63 hearing with Marina as the witness down in Texas, and he got her to testify other than as she had with his questions. With more knowledge, he'd have been an even better interrogator, I think.

He and I think Cooper just did not believe the shooting part of the official solution and they forced another executive session, I think on 9/15/64. I'm pretty sure I refer to it in PM, with the correct date and probably the first two pages of the so-called transcript, which is a palpable fake. They thought they were recording their doubts and questions at the session they thought, and had every reason to believe, was being taken down by their regular court reporting firm. However, no court reporter was there and Rankin faked the first page of an official transcript and followed it with a summary of his own that does not reflect what Russell and really saying. They worked out the compromise that again misrepresented what Russell was getting at, whether or not he was aware of the actual meaning or the actual language - that which shot missed is immaterial, I think it was.

Russell told me, and these are close to his exact words, "They have never told us all they know about Oswald." He could very well have meant as a "red," but I do not know. However, he was quite right, as what I published on Oswald's security clearance leaves beyond doubt. By "they" I believe he meant the FBI and CIA.

The Archives resisted my getting the ex. sess. transcripts but when they did let me have some it was obvious to me that the 9/15 mishmash was no transcript. As a Senate editor in the 1930s I had considerable experience with the same court reporting firm. As soon as I observed this, having some knowledge of Russell's doubts and the session he had forced, I wrote him. His response was so fast it startled me! Instead of writing he locked up my phone number and called. I was at the American Booksellers' annual convention in Washington, but I phoned my wife each lunchtime. She told me of the call and the invitation to go see Russell, and I left for his office that very minute. His initial request may seem naive, but not for a careful lawyer. It was to establish that there was no other transcript. I got this in writing, gave it to him, he was satisfied, and to his dying day encouraged my work, which he well understood. He also thereafter went public, I think almost immediately on Cox broadcasting.

I also obtained and believe published in facsimile the records establishing that Rankin had not made any arrangement for a court reporter for that ex. sess. I have them all, for every session, public and secret.

It would, I believe, be worthwhile for either that professor or a student or both to obtain Russell's own records from the archive he left. My recollection may not be completely dependable but I believe that a bright young man who had been on Russell's staff was connected with that archive or establishing it. He also seemed a bit uneasy over the whole thing. I do not recall which part of the University of Georgia but in those days probably the main one. I'd certainly like to seek that material.

Russell was also chairman of the oversight committee. What he then did and did not do does not reflect his belief, which was that they were always lied to. He told me this, almost in those words, and I believe it is reflected in the 1/27/64 transcript.

In telling me of what he believed LBJ was up to he smiled and told me, "But I fooled him," in devoting his major efforts to the opposition to the legislation. I believe he never really understood what LBJ was really up to!

Glad Wrono is going to be there next week. I'll send him a copy of this in the hope it can reach him before he leaves so he can have time to think if I told him any more years ago. I believe that when Best Evidence appeared I sent Wrono copies of what I did, so he should be prepared with pretty much of that. I know Lifton very well and I checked him out.

We've not yet billed your bookstore because my wife is a little handicapped for a few more weeks. She broke a bone in her foot. She is now out of the cast and is doing rather well. This gives us time for you to let me know about the extra five copies. Should I include them in the bill to the bookstore or do you want to return them?

It will not be as difficult for me to make additional copies because I had to have a master made and it can be used over and over again. In time it might be possible to do a little better on the photos, if necessary. I hope they are adequate for your students.

Wrono can give you an idea of ~~what~~ what is available here in the event any of your students works for an advanced degree and needs a thesis.

Remarkably, bitter cold weather, snow and ice have troubled us little. But thanks for the good wishes. As long as my 19-year-old car starts as well as it has with minus 45 windchills and my wood holds out and my snowblower continues to work and the high school lad who operates it doesn't goof off, no real problems from the weather.

Best wishes,

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Dear Mr. Weisberg,

January 19, 1984

Copies of Whitewash arrived in the college bookstore at the beginning of this week. I want to thank you again for ~~the~~ all the trouble this caused you. Since it arrived somewhat late, I have decided to use it for my regular criminology course in the coming semester, and I will continue to use it until I have exhausted the copies you sent.

The special course I am now teaching is nearly two weeks old and we have done a point by point analysis of Roffman's Presumed Guilty. From the first day when we read and analyzed the Summary and Conclusions of the Warren Report itself, I believe some of the students have been properly shocked at the enormity of the deception and cover-up. In their written summaries which I require them to turn in at the end of each week, a couple of them said that they thought this course was going to show a conspiracy involving Oswald as the trigger man. They never expected that the evidence would absolve Oswald of the murder entirely. Tomorrow we will begin seeing some of the videotape presentations of the Assassination Symposium which was held in Stevens Point several years ago.

Among the faculty members who have been following along with the course, there is a math professor who has actually read the full 27 volumes of the Warren Commission. He has been very helpful to me on occasion in class. This morning we discussed the first portion of Post Mortem and he noted that on p. 8, although you indicate you are going to print the Oswald autopsy to compare it with the false of Pres. Kennedy's autopsy, he could not find it. Another faculty member has been troubled by the fact that Sen. Richard Russell, who he regarded as being among the most honest and of the highest integrity, could have been a party to what the Warren Commission did. If you have any more on this (I know of his dissent from the single bullet theory), I would greatly appreciate you sending it at your convenience. (And I will pay postage ~~or~~ <sup>and/or</sup> xerox costs.)

Wrono will be here next week. In addition to his public lecture I have arranged two television appearances for him. I am certain that among other things, there will be questions posed to him about Lipton's Best Evidence. From your remarks and what Wrono has told me also, I believe he should be able to handle those questions effectively.

Thanks again. I hope the weather has moderated somewhat up there.

Best Wishes,  
Gerald Ginscheck