

3/8/71

Dear Mr. Melnick,

You must have one of my old books. We haven't lived at Hyattstown for more than three years. I enclose a list of them and a notice of my new one.

The <sup>o</sup>point you raise about height is not new and is unresolved. There is more: reports of a 5'7" Oswald in the USSR.

Long ago I prepared a tabulation of the different descriptions of the supposedly one man.

However, I think that the discrepancy in the descriptions at the time of the crime are insignificant. People can't estimate as close as a single inch. Brennan saw nothing, something duplicated in the King assassination. Again only one "eye-witness" and he could not have seen anything. I've just returned from Memphis.

Investigation and research has gotten far past the point where this can be significant. I see no reason for them to have faked this identification card nor any for him to have given the wrong height. I think it more likely a simple error, of which too many are already confirmed. Unfortunately, the media pressures are such that the results of these investigations remain unknown to the general public. I have in hand much more than I've published, and I've in limited (xerox) editions as much as I've printed. (FRAME-UP) comes from two of them.)

Where there is dependable measurement of LHO, his height was recorded as 5'9". His weight has been recorded as low as less than 140 lbs, as I recall.

Thanks for writing.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

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*Center for the Study of Higher Education*

26 February 1971

Mr. Harold Weisberg  
Hyattstown, Maryland

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I have wanted to write you for a long time to thank you for your courageous efforts to get an honest review of the JFK assassination. There is one incongruity in the Warren Report that no critic seems to have noticed that I think may be something that will lead us somewhere. In the summary edition, I think it was the New York Times version there are photographs of the cards which were supposedly found in Oswald's wallet. There is something peculiar about them. The height of Oswald on the cards is recorded as 5 feet, 11 inches, but Oswald was 5 feet 9 inches. A two-inch discrepancy is quite large. Most people who are off might be off by one inch, but I think two inches is rare.

Now, it might mean Oswald was just given to exaggerated efforts to make himself appear tall out of vanity. Or it might mean he was thinking at an early period about being employed as an intelligence agent and wanted some kind of disguise, or maybe the card refers to a false Oswald or finally, and this I think might be pursued: the cards may be fake; the were inserted in his pocket because it was necessary to find a Hidell card there. The person who faked the dummy card did not know his exact height and erroneously put in five feet eleven. If this is correct then the real card may exist somewhere; maybe Marina or Lee's mother has the real card, or maybe some government agency, say Department of Defense has the original height notation. It might be worthwhile to make a search. If it could be shown that those cards were fake then the whole Hidell story becomes suspect and the police officers may be suspect for having planted cards on Oswald. There are three other points relevant here:

1. Somewhere in the 26 volumes you will find a copy of Oswald's application to go to the Soviet Union. In it, he lists his height as 5'10".
2. Now look at the transcript of the police radio broadcast that first went out. It asks for the apprehension of a suspect 5'10", as I remember the weight was identical to the Russian transcript. This is notable since his weight varies from 145 to 165. Now the police could not have legitimately gotten this height and weight from anyone having actually spotted Oswald, but if they HAD BEEN FED SUPPOSED IDENTIFICATION FROM SOME SOURCE, such as the Russian document, they could have thought they would be implicating Oswald this way.
3. Note that a discrepancy as small as this was important to the Commission because you will remember that the Commission discounted an eye-witness testimony (I forgot his name). The witness had said he saw a man about 5'10 " or 5'11" near the window, whereupon (oh yes, it was Brennan), the Commission said the witness must be incorrect because OSWALD WAS

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5'9". Why didn't the police note the discrepancy, especially when supposedly, upon interrogating him they asked him his height and he said 5'9", although his ID cards clearly said 5'11"? How did they know they had the right man?

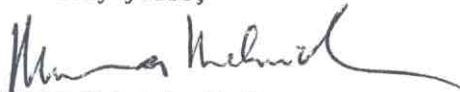
1. How tall was Oswald?
2. Why did the ID cards seemingly contradict his true height?
3. Were these the real cards?

An ordinary man does not add two inches to his height on official documents, where they might actually measure him and note the discrepancy.

What do you feel about this-- could we track down the originals?

Best wishes, let's keep up the fight.

Sincerely yours,



Murray Melnick, Ph.D.  
Assistant Director-- C.S.H.E. &  
Lecturer in Psychology