

January 8, 1967

Please forgive the terrible typing that will follow. If I take time to retype, I will never get the letter done.

First, I have enjoyed WW 1 and WW 2 immensely. There is no need to go in to detail praising you for the terrific research and brain strain this took. I am familiar with the terrible tension of researching the Report (Hearings); the horrible nervous strain, the eye strain, the fantastic weariness, the heart-sickness, the rage, the frustration, etc. I can't imagine how you have had the strength to do as much as you have these past months.

If I was anonymous in the "Castorr" incident, it was only because I hesitated to force a new contact on you. These things are tiring when you are working hard; the need to be polite with a new correspondent, the necessity to chat, the silliness of having to say the right thing at the right time when every second is of value for a piece of research or work, all these digressions are ridiculous. So, I just sent the information, hoping whoever could use it would do so. I am glad you put it into WW 2. Certainly you and I agree on Colonel Castorr and the need to examine him further.

There are so many needs. A further examination of the epileptic. Was this a diversionary tactic in order to draw eye-attention from the grassy knoll area? In my opinion, it was. In conversations with Jean Hill, Altgens, Molina, etc., I was struck by their seeming interest in this epileptic. Altgens finally brushed his suspicions off by saying to me; "The FBI checked it out and told me it was O.K."

I am more cynical than Mr. Altgens. This does not make it OK to me. Besides, have you found in the 26 volumes any reference to the FBI checking this story out? I haven't, but perhaps I have missed it. I recall seeing somewhere in the books (but because I am sloppy, did not mark place and so have lost it as a reference) a photograph of the Parkland Emergency entrance sheet for that afternoon (from 12 on). I don't recall seeing the entry for the epileptic; yet we are told the ambulance went under the underpass and onto Stemmons. In addition, we have the Dallas police log that tells us the ambulance with this man went directly to Parkland. According to what Altgens told me: "The ambulance (with the epileptic in it) was disappearing under the underpass just as the lights of the motorcade were turning onto Main." All witnesses agree that the incident occurred after 12. Thus the emergency sheet at Parkland should most certainly reflect this man's arrival at the hospital--unless of course he made a miraculous recovery near Cobb ~~Stadium~~ Stadium and got out! (I have always been interested in the police report that a man was seen running across Cobb Stadium with a rifle. No follow-up of course. This was around 2:30 pm, I believe. There is a picture taken of the presidential limousine as it passed a point directly opposite Cobb on Stemmons that shows what appears to be the figure of a man running on the roof of Corham Motors. The man appears to be carrying a rifle. I even had an FBI man say to me that this was indeed what the picture looked like. I have photographed this area in Dallas and can come up with no duplication of this figure from what is available on the roof of Corham Motors now. Corham Motors is of course across the freeway from Cobb. The Presidential limousine was at that point at about 12:35 pm. The police report indicates a man seen running across Cobb with a rifle at about 2:30 pm, two hours later. Still, I suppose, if he was a potential assassin, posted farther down the way than those who killed at the knoll, he may have stayed hidden and out of sight until later. There was a pick-up at Cobb that the police reported on, but no follow-up on this car either. At any rate, here is another small point not properly checked out.)

My interest in Duff was sparked by a conversation I had with Watts, Walker's friend and lawyer (Oxford). Watts told me that Duff was with a friend of his, working with this family at Watts' request. The family is Buttram, an enormously wealthy family here in Oklahoma City. Watts went to great lengths to find employment for the splendid Mr. Duff. Why? Is such concern and loyalty for an ex-bat man, an ex-nut such as Duff (who was fired originally for incompetency and inability to get-along) the norm with right-wingers like Watts and Walker? Not in my opinion. When I asked Watts what motivated his concern for this man, Duff, he replied: I felt sorry for him. Crap. Watts feels sorry for no one. On top of this, I had an interview Wm. Keester, who works for Watts. What a crew. Keester is a real dirt-pile. Keyhole peeper, the works. The fact that Watts chose him to go to Dallas in the summer of '63 to "investigate" the Walker shooting incident (along with Cliff Roberts) is fabulous. Keester and Roberts are ex-Oklahoma City policemen, fired for drunkenness and "shooting out street lights." With the help of people like Watts they formed a joint detective agency and got jobs such as the Walker assignment. Roberts is out of the thing now, I think. I believe he is with the State Crime Bureau, and I imagine he needed some push and some help from someone to get this job. As I recall the jobs here were taken out of civil service, there was great bitterness, at the time Oklahoma got her first Republican governor (in '62), the moronic wheat-farmer, Henry Bellmon. A number of these jobs were then filled on order so to speak, without Mr. Bellmon knowing his rear end from a hole in the ground. At any rate, both Duff and Roberts (and Keester, too) have had it excellent ever since being in contact with Mr. Watts who jumps everytime they cry "frog." It is my opinion that Watts promised Duff a job and future security immediately after Duff told the SS that he had seen Ruby going into Walker's. Notice that it was at this point (upon receiving employment with the help of Watts) that Duff backtracked and would not conclude his allegations on Ruby; yet previous to this when the SS told him he could be prosecuted for false allegations, he persisted.

Do you have the information on Eileen Curry that was in the papers a few months ago (a year ago now)? Eileen is a professional FBI squealer. She turned in the taxi-cab prostitution ring in Chicago last year. At the bottom of all news items was the remark: Eileen Curry was released and not charged. She never is charged. It was she who told the FBI about Ruby and the Mexican border narcotics trade. It is my opinion that this is the reason Lee Oswald was killed. I do not believe Oswald was killed because of the assassination. I don't think the Dallas police care one damn about this. The Dallas police are concerned only with the Tippit murder. Tippit in my opinion was involved in the narcotics traffic. (See Police Chief Curry's testimony and the question asked of him in this regard by Allen Dulles. Where would Dulles get inside information to ask a question like this? From his CIA-contacts of course. Oswald went to Mexico in my opinion for a number of jobs, one of which was to gather information on a fantastic, incipient narcotics deal about to be pulled. This was halted, incidentally, but the item was of small consequence in the national press. I think I read about it in the Dallas Morning News. At any rate, any real investigation of Tippit and the Tippit murder would destroy the Dallas police system. Any thorough investigation of a live Oswald would also destroy the Dallas police as his testimony would reveal who was doing what in Dallas. In my opinion as far as the Dallas police were concerned, Oswald, guilty or innocent of the murder of the President, HAD to go. If Oswald killed Kennedy, he had to be killed. If he did not kill Kennedy, but was framed by right-wingers, he still had to be killed. Whoever killed Kennedy had the Dallas police leadership exactly where they wanted it: in a bind.) At any rate, as you know, the Commission never called Eileen Curry to ask about the moving pictures, Jack Ruby and the Mexican border guards. Now it is too late to ask Ruby these questions.

Did Ruby go to Washington in 1950 with Lt. George Butler of the Dallas police? Allen Crowley, Washington Bureau of the Daily Oklahoman, says he did. Mr. Crowley was told that a transcript of the testimony Ruby gave the Kefauver Crime Committee (in the company of Lt. Butler) was in the National Archives; when he (Crowley) went to the Archives, this transcript could no longer be found. A committee member (Nellis) still alive, swears that the transcript was in the Archives at one time. Could you check on this story? The Report leaves blanks in this period of Ruby's life. (See Thayer Waldo's testimony for his opinion of possible complicity between Ruby and Butler in Oswald's death in basement.)

Lonnie Hudkins told me (also told independent of this the same story by Jim Standard, Daily Oklahoman) that Lt. Butler member of John Birch Society. Thayer Waldo told me Lt. Butler member of Minutemen. These things in themselves mean nothing. However, in light of Butlers affiliation with Ruby, his presence in basement, his past affiliation and seeming protective attitude towards Dallas-Las Vegas crime element (see GREEN FELT JUNGLE), these things take on importance in light of Commission's failure to call Butler. (Particular emphasis laid on Ruby friendship with RD Matthews and Benny "Cowboy" Binnion by Jim Standard. Matthews is alleged "paid assassin" for Southwest area and Green Felt Jungle explains all there is necessary to know about Benny Binnion. The Report ignores Matthews except to mention without further real examination a phone call made by Ruby to one of Matthews homes, this one in Shreveport, on Oct. 3, 1963, excuse me, I think that was Oct. 4, the same day coincidentally that Lee Oswald arrived back in Dallas allegedly from his Mexican trip. Matthews wife had no memory of the call.)

Do you know anything about: Jules Striso, *you know, N.Y.?*

Recently I have received some interesting letters from this man. It seems strange that he has contacted me and his contact followed on the heels of another little incident, so that putting the two together has confused me. He is probably perfectly ~~OK~~ OK, but some of his remarks have struck me strangely. Would you offer me an opinion? I enclose a letter or two of his for you to see. Could you return them when you have time.

I have not answered him on the Mark Lane question. I have of course had contact with Mr. Lane, but only because he was the only one I knew ~~for~~ for a long while involved in this thing. (Penn Jones and I became acquainted only last year in spite of ~~her~~ proximity.) What is it Mr. Striso wants me to say? I am distrustful of this kind of approach. I am also distrustful of his approach to questions on narcotics. However, I may be unduly suspicious. We all have a right in a sense to be this way. It is best to be cautious in the beginning and not to hold it against one another later.

The friendship between Hosty and Surrey has not ~~be~~ fully explored.

We are all waiting for the Manchester articles in Look, I'm sure. I understand Tulsa will get 5000 for distribution and that these will be released tomorrow morning. AS I don't have a subscription, I will have to get up early and start tearing the bookstores and magazine racks. *Manchester will stick to Oswald as the assassin, but will blast the FBI & SS for ineptness.*

I am worried about Marina. Will she be the next "victim" — a suicide? It would fit the

patterns. Her life must be hell where she is
now - so different from her Music Box
days in Dallas. I am told (by Ruth Paine)
that her husband will not let her talk to
anyone - on the phone or otherwise - without
his permission.

What do you think about Oswald's "Bang-
bang; you're dead" days in No - at the coffee
warehouse & at Alibi? Do you think
Abba was under investigation for
bootlegging NRA rifles?

Do you think Oswald was doing peripheral
work for the Dodd Committee when he
ordered rifle & gun? In my opinion, picture
(Oswald with Death Weapons, Life) was posed
deliberately for use later in year by
Dodd Committee. ("See, here is picture showing
weapons purchased through mail, illegally,
under false name, by defector, Marxist, etc."
Japs & horror in committee hearing room.)
Oswald was a real all-American boy.
He never had permanent possession of weapons.

Sincerely,

A. Mentri

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