

3/9/67

Dear Shirley,

There are very few things for which I've stopped writing lately, but your letter of 3/6 requires it, as you will see. And not because of your beginning, with which I am and have been in entire accord. If the Commission proved but one thing, that thing is that Oswald killed no one.

I have almost finished a book on New Orleans. It is one of the reasons WHITENASH III is late. I have taken from that the considerable amount of material I had on The False Oswald (see also current SAGA), added some to it, and written most of the book. I think I have a commercial publisher for it. I now have an agent. I have just returned from New York. If the publisher accepts the book, the nature of which he understands, he'll do a very fast job of getting it out and has agreed to an advance sufficient in size to make it cost him if he then buries the book. So I think it will get his attention, at least. I am saying nothing about this for now and ask you not to. I'm to deliver it the end of next week. That is very soon!

As you realize, I have from the first said what Garrison is now saying. So you have an idea of the book.

You say "Only mention of Michoud (Lewallen's place of work) in 26 volumes is Alba's testimony" and so forth. I would appreciate anything you have or know of in 26 vols or elsewhere on Lewallen, of whom I know nothing. But this is not the only ref. In the ~~W~~ Vial report this is one of the things the SS told the FBI before 12/3/63 it would investigate. Page 22, Ex 3119.

The item you said you enclosed from the Dallas paper wasn't enclosed.

Can you send me the Allen and Scott report that says the Hotel Comercio is a CIA hangout. Either a copy of I'll copy and return.

Does the name Guy Gabalden (phonetic) mean anything to you? Harry Dean? Very important, if you can send me, is what you quote:

"Ferrie's remark: 'I had to talk that nit Lee Oswald into joining the Marines to get rid of him' is an after-the-fact remark, in my opinion and not to be taken seriously. Ferrie's photograph of Lee? Not unlikely. The name 'Lee' overheard by the unnamed witness. It could have been Lew. Oswald could ~~be~~ indeed have been in Ferrie's apartment since in my opinion Ferrie was involved in New Orleans in many deals that Oswald would have shown interest in....."

All of this, in all the possible detail, as fast as possible, either in reference to the 26 or source that I may find time to check, can be frightfully important. Would you object to credit if I use any of it? Of course, now that you know what I'm rushing, anything else you can think of would be wonderful. I'm including the stuff on the homos, the training camp, Bringuier, etc. ~~when you're~~, etc.

Dell is doing the Schiller libels this month. I told the vp Tuesday he'd probably be paying for libels. He seemed unconcerned. Indications are the book will not be well received, although pressures and events will chance this, perhaps. I understand that even the WJT, which printed that awful piece, will clobber. I even told him I am satisfied I was libelled. I wrote Capitol twice, the second time registered. Got a reply from Schiller that is nothing except the bad news that he was almost killed by monoxide ~~poison~~ poisoning when something happened to a stove. Their written agreement with me at least says they are giving 5% in my name to the Library. Their breach of the agreement I called to their attention (this and other) prior to WJT, in fact, within a day or two of record release, and on the basis of this I demanded the return in every form or whatever copy they had made. I think the book will bomb, but Schiller now seems to have good sources in New Orleans. He'll use them for evil purposes.

Hurriedly,

Who's Ferrie's "al"!

3/6/67

Harold: You have seen the New Orleans States-Item for March 4th with the information on the FBI raid on the arms cache at Lacombe in the summer of '63.

5. Mixing with "gay" crowd only days before such mass ~~gay~~ "gaiety" was arrested.

Only mention of Michoud (Lewallan's place of work) in 26 volumes is Alba's testimony, Volume X, p. 226. Latest word is that no employer at Michoud had application from a LHO in '63. Yet Oswald inferred to Alba application had been made. Am inclined to feel Oswald's whole trip was orientated around finding hidden stolen arms. Notice that Oswald's interest in weapons was a new (1963) development. Indeed, after New Orleans, Oswald did not mention guns again in any serious context.

Oswald was always the gad-fly. As follows:

1. Letter to VT Lee asking if he (Oswald) should go "underground." Had Lee replied to this in the affirmative, he would have been liable to charges on subversion. Lee wisely sidestepped this.
2. Trying to trap Alba into selling a NRA rifle at a lower rate. Against the law. Alba refused.
3. Trying to force Bringuier to accept money when Bringuier was not allowed to do so. Bringuier wisely refused.
4. Attempt to check Ofstein's loyalty.

There are others. Oswald may have been affiliated with the Alcohol Tax Division.

At any rate, inclosing the item from Dallas papers not because it is particularly damning, but pertinent in light of current developments.

No one ^{except me} seems to consider why Lee was called back for "fingerprinting" early Saturday morning after Lab closed. Nonsense. Also significant, but ignored, are two IDENTICAL phone calls Lee made to Ruth Saturday. Nonsense.

Lewallan resembles Lee to some extent.

According to Allan and Scott, Hotel del Comercio is CIA hang-out.

No doubt Ruth and Michael working for some agency. Theirs was more than a "safe house." They were more in line of "surveillance couple," transacting for Lee certain details that he could not transact openly. My opinion third car bought by Paine for Lee. Am trying to get together a sensible letter (open letter); will send you a copy. Love, S.

March 6, 1967

I'm sorry I couldn't find the clipping. It will have to be sent next time.

I am still (rather foolishly, I suppose) committed to the innocence of Lee Oswald. It has never been too much for me to imagine that Lee was picked as the perfect patsy by a group wanting very much to use the death of the President to create an international incident. I have always felt this group to be ~~ix ignorant~~ in regard to Lee's government affiliations, accepting him as the Marxist and defector he claimed to be. Yet, once the murder of the President was accomplished, this group was benefitted by the fact that Lee was a peripheral agent of some kind; ~~the~~ the Federal Government, in ~~agony~~ over what ~~they~~ assumed was the action of a berserk agent, did everything it could to let the sleeping dog lie; ie: let Lee stand as the killer without too much probing into what and who he was.

Thus the assassination ~~crew~~ crew was aided by Lee's relationship to the government, a bonus that came to them unwittingly. Yet they were at the same time defeated in their scope, for they had hoped that the death of Kennedy at the hands of a Marxist would spur the right-wing orientated LBJ into a frenzy of revenge. This it didn't do, thanks to the government's awareness of Lee Oswald's role prior to the assassination. The government never did accept Lee Oswald as a Marxist, nor did RFK who described Lee as a "professed Marxist." Who we will find ultimately behind the men behind the men is an intriguing thought. While anti-Castro, pro-Batista Cubans may very well have made the plans and fired the guns, who greased the mechanism with the necessary money? I have always inclined towards Bobby Baker; but again this is just a theory that has no basis in any actual fact, unless it is the extraordinary fact of timing and human nature.

The first thing that MUST be revealed is Lee's relationship to the government. Thus everything that Lee did, is said to have done, etc., can probably be looked at in a different light. Ferrie's remark: "I had to talk that nit Lee Oswald into joining the Marines to get rid of him" is an after-the-fact remark in my opinion and not to be taken seriously. Ferrie's photograph of Lee? Not unlikely. The name "Lee" overheard by the unnamed witness? It could have been "Lew." Oswald could indeed have been in Ferrie's apartment since in my opinion Ferrie was involved in New Orleans in many deals that Oswald would have shown interest in. Oswald's remark to the lady that New Orleans is a "cold town" is a self-serving remark in my opinion. Oswald did not find any town this way particularly. Nor is this a particularly Lee Oswaldian remark. Oswald's start in Martello's presence when the name Reissman was mentioned in conjunction with Pine Street was also self-serving in my opinion. No one seems to keep a clear eye on Lee Oswald or on his quite predictable personality. People don't change, at least not this quickly.

At any rate we are now in the dirty half-world of homosexuals, narcotics addicts and American military officers robbing their own government for profit; we are in the Southern world of the racists gunrunner, and these worlds were all Lee Oswald's during the trying time between the summer of '62 and his death in the fall of '63. So much he owed the government and attempted to pay back. He hardly figured his life would be involved, considering ^{that} others with bigger (in service) misdemeanors paid so much less.