

20734

3/22/66

Dear Sylvia,

Not until today did I get around to posting the suggestions and connections you made in your letter of February 15. They were helpful and included some I had not already picked up. It is surprising how much I have forgotten with my mind trying to concentrate on other things. For example, your comment in the clip (under page 27 in your letter). I am certain I remember testimony about the clip, that it was not purchased with the rifle, and recall my own feeling of the time that here was an obvious lead that should have been followed during the aborted search for the source of the ammunition. Yet I cannot recall where or whose testimony.

Under page 32 you refer to having seen no picture of Fritz with the rifle. I remember that when it was first found he was at that time and spot photographed with it but only, according to the testimony, after Day had checked for prints. Others also testified about this.

Under page 31, you are quite right in your comment on the cited Hoover testimony. I should not have left it out. Some explanation, and some Commission and staff.

With reference to Charlie Virginia Davis (page 76) (This is the name by which the Commission's editor identified her, if not the official reporter. See 61451.

In your discussion of page 31, the names you list are those who searched the Paine residence 11/23. There were two FBI agents the next day, with Stovall and Rose. I was being kind to them, from the testimony, in saying they were only present. See 7H189.

About the photos, I can imagine a guy like Oswald having them made for the kind of particular purpose he might have had in mind. I do not know. It is hard to believe they could have been faked, although it could have been done. I felt fast for my purposes it was best to take it and play it straight. The Commission said there was but the single negative. There were both. See Stovall 7H194 and Rose 7H231. Each swore they got both. Then considered with the Commission not taking note and not looking into the absence of the camera in the inventories of what was seized, I believe it damages them quite seriously. Attacking the genuineness of the negatives, on the other hand, was risky, and I could see but little more to be gained.

Page 142. I could not find what you were referring to in the part of CE 2003 cited, pp. 252-254, but I'd like very much to see what you were talking about.

Can you give me the citation for your note on 146, the Clements-DeBruys interview with Bogard? Did you notice when De Bruys, who seems to have been the FBI's Cuban expert in New Orleans, first showed up in Dallas? A remarkable coincidence, and equally remarkable that with the Oswald-Cuban refugee story, he was not used to question Oswald.

Page 156- I could not find what you were referring to.

There is nothing new, yet there may be. I will sit hard on my own hopes and not unduly raise yours, but I have indications of interest in three European countries. I have also learned that Lane's book is on the Bodley-Head Spring list, which probably means June publication. I have heard nothing more about it since I mentioned to you what I had earlier heard, that a commission of British historians was going over it to remove error. I hope they had the requisite knowledge. And I hope if Trevor-Roper was one, he does better by Lane than he did by himself.

This brings to mind a rather odd thing: Collins had my book examined by a man with exactly the same name as Trevor-Roper's severest critic - Sparrow. Rather an odd way of making an impartial determination, isn't it?

Did I ever ask you if the Oswald autopsy charts are in the 26 volumes, or Tippit's autopsy, with or without charts, or even a decent medical report on him? I do not now recall any, and there is the disagreement between the police and the Report counting of the wounds and apparently between the police and the police versions of the seriousness of each.

The CBS footage from the BBC dramatization, short as it was, interested me very much because they were not able to faithfully re-enact the shooting! They had to have the actor shoot almost directly ahead! They also felt it necessary to take other dramatic liberties with the Report's account.

I have finally had an answer from Collier in which he insists that his actual costs will be higher than the prices he quoted and carefully avoiding any reference to the number of books he is talking about. Even if his figures are not inflated, he has included a guarantee of his normal profit for himself. I replied telling him I'd be in touch as soon as I heard, either way, and to date I have not.

Anything new from Ramparts, or anywhere else? Did you see what I did not but was reported to me, an item in the New York Review saying there were two books due to come out. Some time ago, I heard there was someone name Newman on the all-night WOR yak who was supposedly writing one. WOR did not reply.

Sincerely,