

4/23/68

Dear Gary,

Exciting as is the content of your letter of 4/18, which didn't arrive until today, the most interesting thing of all is unmentioned. Are you a father yet?

What I would do with the exhibits would vary with their subject matter. If you can send me a few extra copies of each, I can mail them myself as I am in touch with those who might be interested. The SXX Citizens' Committee mailing should be to Steve Burton. Tell him I asked it. Another should be to Paul Hoch, ditto. Address: 2537 Regent St., #202, Berkeley, Calif.

Writing a book about Similes could be very worthwhile, if you begin with the assumption you'll make no money (and are surprised if you do) and with the belief you may not be able to get it published. Otherwise, there may be great frustrations. I am all for it and will help in any way I can. I've checked the Archives again and they have nothing else. You can, of course, use anything I have or have published.

In some ways it is much better having others working with you, as long as you can trust them. A minimum of any agreement you make must be that you have control over the doctrine of the work. If you do not understand this, I'll explain later. I'm more than ever much too busy and into too many things.

With what you say of S I'm inclined to agree. Suppose instead of being near the sign he was opposite it?

May I suggest to you other possible interests in his Ruby pictures: that they showed a False Oswald? That they showed Latin types, or other people of interest to other agencies, like CIA? I'd be interested in any Latin face that might show in any pictures at Rubyts. May I suggest that you include CIA among the agencies the man not Davies might have represented?

If I do not have copies of what has been published on this in Canada, May I, please for my knowledge only. I plan to write more on that.

I disagree that there is any reason to downgrade the value of his assassination-scene pictures. What you describe is consistent with Carolyn Walther's and Rowland's observations and, in a way, with Craig. Clear pictures of that window before the firing would possibly identify those who planted the rifle.

Barnabel has been helpful, has a very good lead, and I did respond, but my last trip to New Orleans delayed it. I trust him, also put him in touch with Sprague. I think I referred him to you, so you might help each other.

Hurriedly,

F.R. I,
Moffat, Ont., Canada,
April 18th, 1968.

Dear Harold;

Please excuse the long delay, but things have been so very hectic as of late. I haven't had time to work on any new exhibits or for that matter to make some of the necessary revisions required on some of the others. However as you have said in the past it is quite time consuming and I think that as long as we have an understanding of these revisions we should make out all right. As for the circulation on these exhibits of mine it is as follows; I usually send to you, Citizens Committee of Inquiry and to Mr. Garrison's staff (usually through Tom Bethell). If, however, there are others whom you think might possibly benefit from the exhibits, please let me know and I will do my best to supply them.

Thanks for the copy of the AG's statement. It will undoubtedly be helpful to me in the future.

I guess the biggest news that has happened of late occurred about a week ago. I was approached by an associate of mine, Peter Lunniss, and some fellow associates of his. They would like me to attempt to write a book about the Similas case. I haven't given them a firm answer as yet as I wanted to ask your opinion first. They have been quite helpful and really do believe that there is more involved with Similas than meets the eye, something I guess we have known for quite some time. They even set up an interview with Similas for me, and I met him (Similas) on the evening of April 10th. The interview ran for slightly over 5 hours, at which time I gained an innumerable measure of new info and also got a rather good idea of what type of man Similas is. Numerous new leads also have cropped up since the interview which have to be looked into up here in Canada. I really wouldn't know quite where to begin to tell you what was gleaned from the interview, but I will try to list a few of the new and important points. Perhaps, with time allowing some day, I will get a transcript made from the tapes of the interview and send it to you.

Similas could not be pinned down as to where he definitely stood at the time of the shooting. This may be a little hard to believe, but one must meet the man to fully appreciate the difficulty during the interview to attempt to question him. However, after talking to him for some 5 hours my opinion has not changed. He was in Dealy Plaza, probably in the area of the Houston-Main St. intersection. From verbal descriptions from Similas, his photo with 2 in the window sounds very similar to the Jack Weaver photo. He claims that he was standing near the Stemmons Freeway sign at the time of the shooting. However it would be virtually impossible for him to have taken a photo from that area that would have included the 6th floor TSBD. Also a check of the Willis 5th, Betzner and Altgens photo's fail to reveal an individual resembling Similas in this area. Also with the Adolphus Hotel situated on Main St. it would seem quite likely that Similas walked down Main until he found a good spot near the Main-Houston intersection to photograph the parade.

Similas himself is convinced that the individual who came to his home on Sunday the 24th was not from the Telegram. The reason for believing this is that there was no reason for the Telegram to return. A man, presumably Colin Davies, had been the day before and had taken what Similas said were

the majority of his Dealy Plaza photo's. The man returning the second time appeared to have an overly zealous interest in what Similas knew of Jack Ruby and what he had photographed in Ruby's club. We believe this man was definitely FBI or RCMP who got wind from the Telegram that Similas had been to Ruby's and perhaps, more importantly, had actually taken photo's in Ruby's club on the evening of Nov. 21st. The story run by the Telegram on Nov. 25th was probably just a formality fabricated by the police agencies. The \$50 was probably nothing more than conscience money. I believe that the decisions made for both these things probably also came from higher up in the Telegram chain. This would explain the lack of a record of this at the Telegram and also the fact that no one present on the staff today knows nothing more about this than the apparent "loss". Some people did not even know the photo's had been lost until I drew it to their attention!

Therefore, my main conclusion beginning to take shape, is that the agencies were more troubled by the fact of what Similas may have photographed in Ruby's club than anything else. They (the FBI) probably thought that they had obtained all the pertinent photo's and info from Similas when they had the photo's from the Telegram and what they themselves obtained on Nov. 24th. However, when they got wind of the Liberty magazine articles some 3 months later, Hoover probably almost had a heart attack!! Here was Similas back again writing about his photo's and claiming he was going to expose the fact of 2 in the window, "lost" negatives, etc. etc. That was just too much to take!!! A man was quickly dispatched to Canada, and, with the help of the RCMP, a second "loss" was initiated. This was, of course, the second Liberty magazine galley proof and photo's. The first article couldn't be stopped as it was already on the newstands.

This, therefore, is the picture that is beginning to take shape in my mind. What do you think of it? I would like your opinion. There is a lot more work to be done up here, but I think this is essentially what really happened to Similas.

Just a couple of minor things before I go. I learned from Similas that not only the second galley proof was taken from Liberty, but something of much greater importance. When Similas was interviewed by Ken Armstrong, he turned over to Armstrong everything that he (Similas) had left in his possession. This included photo's, letters, newspaper clippings etc. One of the photo's was run in the first Liberty magazine article. There is no mention of this in the Armstrong interview; just the fact that Similas gave them "some pictures". True, Similas also promised to send the photo with 2 in the window, but he hoped to get those back from the Telegram. However he was simply told that they were still "lost" and had not been found yet. When Liberty folded, Similas went for his property. But, alas, like the Telegram, the whole Similas file was missing!!! There fore, it would appear that the FBI hit a gold-mine. With this Similas file they now had everything that Similas ever had in his possession. This explains Similas's evasiveness now with people like Sprague, yourself and myself. The man simply has nothing left to offer. He has been stripped clean by the gov't agencies of Canada and the U.S., under the pretense of "lost" articles. I wish someone would now tell me who are the "scavengers" in this case!

One thing I would like to ask you. If you do think that I could possibly write a book about this affair, could I have your permission to quote you from your books?? I believe that some of your accurate observations would be very appropriate.

In closing, did you receive a letter from a Richard Bernabei in Kingston Ont? He claims he wrote you before writing me. I answered his letter, but wanted to be cautious until I find out his intentions.

Well I really must go. Hope to hear from you soon and I will try to be a little more prompt in my reply next time.

Respectfully

Jay