

5809 East Rosewood St.,
Tucson, Arizona. 85711
April 22, 1969.

Dear Mr. Weisberg: It will be interesting to see what you make of Oswald as an agent. I have, of course, been fairly well convinced for a long time that he was an agent but, I should say, a rather inept one. It seems to me that he should have had better training and better instruction about the people with whom he was to deal. His rather loud mouthed attitude in Russia would have created anything but a favorable opinion among the Russians and his setting up a phony Fair Play for Cuba Committee would have made anything but a favorable impression on the Castro Cubans. Those people are not new at the game and revolution is a very ancient art. For a new comer or a would-be newcomer to the ranks, the word is: "Easy does it." Apparently Oswald was not too much trusted by anybody and he was bright enough. It well could have been that all he needed was better training. I have seen some speculation to the effect that the photographs of Oswald holding the rifle and one with the Worker the other with the Militant were intended to ingratiate him with one or the other or both groups. Just the same strictures apply here. Those people are not to be taken by that sort of thing. It would seem that Oswald had very poor training by his superiors and it would seem to have ~~be~~ been almost deliberate. I cannot think that either the FBI or the CIA know either the local or Russian brand of Communist so little. But then they might. Americans of all occupations and ranks have displayed a remarkable amount of naivete in dealing with people of foreign countries and of dissident views at home. The approach has all too often been that of a Smart Alek.

About that Carcano... I bought one for \$11.00 and something in Pasadena about 1959. It looked as though it had been tossed around a good bit but appeared not to have been used to any extent. After I got it cleaned up, I was sure that it had hardly been used at all. The stock proved to be blond hardwood, probably maple, and the photographs of the Oswald weapon look like blond wood covered over with a brown stain. The Oswald rifle appears to have been made in 1940. Mine was made in 1939. Guns, of course, if they have moderate care, deteriorate very slowly. Instead, they become obsolete. My Carcano is about as good today as it ever was and Latona was talking nonsense. My rifle is sufficiently accurate but on the flimsy side and the safety feature is lousy, not at all positive and can be knocked out in a number of ways. I have read that it was considered the "humanitarian gun...never hurt anybody on purpose." I have been told around here that it is a good deer rifle. It is a small point but the clip just drops out through an opening in the bottom of the magazine when the last cartridge is loaded into the chamber. There is no way an empty can be put into the magazine so it will stay unless it is jammed with another piece of metal or wood. If the bolt is closed, the clip will not go all the way in. Of course the rifle is not a repeater without a clip. I have thought since I started looking into the matter that the contraption was a plant. Now a Mauser would be the type of rifle to use on that kind of a job. Incidentally, that silly bag was 38 inches long. Mauser carbines are numerous and I have found none over 38 inches long and one made for Argentina which is only 36 3/4 inches in length. Of course no gun was ever in that absurd bag but a Mauser carbine would have fit in it very nicely.

Bernabei's report on his test firings are about what one would expect. Frazier must have maintained the same sight setting at 100 yards that he had at 15 or he increased the range. If he increased the range, then the displacement should have been even greater. I wonder what he did to the sight so that he got only 5 inches high at 25 yards while he had 4 inches high at 15 yards and then he got only 5 inches high again at 100 yards. Light does still move in straight lines, ... I think. One of two things must have happened: Mr. Frazier falsified his shooting records or he did or had done a lot of work on the sight before he fired at 25 and 100 yards. But using his own figures, the rifle and scope together are quite inaccurate and firing at about the rate the rifleman was supposed to have fired, he still had a potential miss of 13 inches at 60 yards.

I have been tempted to write to Chief Justice Warren and ask him if he supposes the account of the trip from Ft. Worth to the Parkland Hospital is truthful. I can hardly find anything else that is.

No doubt you know that one of the three cartridge cases could not have been fired at the time it was supposed to have been fired nor in the place. A small conical depression near the lip of the crimped cartridge make it a virtual certainty that it was crimped by means of a center punch and some kind of a hammer. A very deliberate job.

Somewhere I got the information that the firing pin on that supposed Oswald revolver was bent when it was taken from him and it could not be fired. What happened to it after Tippit was shot?

Nothing checks out.

Good luck.

Sincerely,


Whitney Joy