

37 Harvard Drive
Hartsdale, N. Y.
February 11, 1969

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 7
Frederick, Md.

Dear Harold:

Perhaps by the time you receive this I will have seen you in New Orleans. I will be there on Feb. 4 through 7. Hopefully, Jim's opening statement to the jury will take place while I'm there.

In response to your Jan. 22 letter, I believe I am remaining totally objective with respect to the three tramps. If someone comes up with their names and current addresses and I see they are, or were, really tramps, I'm willing to reach that conclusion.

On the other hand, I'm sure they were arrested near the base of Bower's tower from his testimony. From Harkness' testimony I believe the train was in the yards on the north side of the overpass and began to move out. Harkness says that's essentially what Sawyer said and don't forget this was almost an hour after the shots were fired.

The train was not just passing through. Sawyer sent Harkness back there because he recognized that box cars which had been in the RR yards might contain something interesting.

Certainly, Harold, you must admit that if those three men are indeed Edgar Eugene Bradley, Fred Lee Crisman, and Skinny Ralph Slachter, it would have been a mighty strange coincidence to have had them "passing through" on a train. What's wrong with the first point of finding out who they are and then proving they might have been involved. If they are tramps, okay give up. If they are Bradley, Crisman, and Slachter, I don't think I'll have to prove that they could have fired a shot, or prove whether the train was passing through standing still or backing up, or prove where they were arrested. Their presence in the Plaza would speak for itself.

If you want to know how we can prove who they were, it's by fingerprints. If they were booked, they may have been printed. That's why I wanted your friend in Dallas to get to the booking cop and/or the booking records.

I don't intend to contact Larry Bensky regarding Farewell America. I had suggested that you contact him directly at Ramparts. I don't see how it could cause a mistrial, but then you may know something I don't.

Regards,

Wick

Under witness

1/10/68

Dear Dick,

Many thanks for your letter, of 1/8 and valuable enclosures. I will forward them today with comments. For example, it was Liebeler who deposed Altgens. Possibly another had been intended and Liebeler took over. This is what happened with Odio. I have already recommended him as a witness (both, in fact).

The Ruby book thing is for real, only very old and possibly valueless. I have spoken to the reporter who did the original story. I have suggested that we might add value to the material when we examine it and would do so in return permission to use, if necessary, in trial (which is extremely remote). I have heard nothing further and will initiate nothing further now. It also included many of his check stubs and other records, even a set of his discharge. Several boxes of old records.

I am glad to get the NYT clip on the book "Farewell America". I do not share your view of it and its backers, tried to warn me in stay from it at the very outset, regard it as part of a major play against us, including a very significant penetration of the office, and encourage you to put on paper and give me as fast as you can anything and everything you have, know or suspect. Consider that possibility that it may be used as a move for a mistrial and you will see the potential. Please regard this as a matter of the utmost urgency. If I am wrong, and you have no idea how confident I am that I am not, nothing will be lost, no one hurt. But IF I am right, and I know what I cannot communicate that is so persuasive I am not, any scrap of information, no matter how vague, can be so important, particularly in an emergency, courtroom situation, I do regard the whole thing as intelligence, but not French intelligence. I think it is CIA. I have from the first. No one would listen. Now it may be too late. There are a few scraps in the "ices" piece. If you have time, please call Peter Kihns, ask him if he wrote the piece and whether he did or not communicate the above to him and ask him if he has or can get any more data for me. Caution him against any expression of my belief to anyone but Salisbury. If Salisbury is in any way interested, I will, at the right time, tell him what I know.

Again, thanks.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg