

Garrett Timmermans  
2803 Forest Ave.  
Berkeley, Calif.  
94705

Dear Garrett Timmermans,

1/18/75

Please do not misunderstand my forthrightness. I haven't time to pretend diplomacy and I'm dismayed at the kind of crap you and I suppose your group still goes for after all these years. Talking about it in public will serve to defame all who do have questions because it is close to irrational and is unreasonable.

You could have applied your own test to some. If Garrison really had those kinds of confessions and if he felt he could even get away with using those witnesses (which is not the same as saying he believed them) why in the world do you think he did not use them in the trial?

Much of what you report is a rehash in exaggerated form, but also a complete distortion, of some of my earlier work which did not have this crooked focus. Those camp pictures I got and made the mistake of letting others have. They have never stopped misusing and misrepresenting them. And no, neither Ruby nor anyone looking like him is in any of them. (The Louisiana camp you mention was a joke and had no such purpose. The raid was for entirely different reasons and caused by a neighbor who was simply terrified when those careless Cubans started a fire when they had enough explosives to blow up that part of the countryside.)

I can simplify the whole thing: where this junk is not plain manufacture, not absolutely crazy and based on nothing, it has no relevance to the meaning given it.

This whole thing is morbidly insane and I would encourage all of you who clearly have neither critical faculties nor mature political judgment to abandon this kind of committee. If you want to study, fine. But you start spreading this kind of sick stuff and you will further destroy the credibility of the few who do serious work. This has been what many others have done. That you are utterly lost is quite separate from what I take to be seriousness of purpose. But if you are serious, you will stop before you do more harm. Instead, just study among yourselves and do not engage in any public or intendedly informational activities.

I really can't take the time to explain all the nonsense. But if you pay serious attention to the outpouring of the paranoids or self-seekers you'll be doing nothing that can be good and I can't justify the time to explain all this terrible stuff away. But please do believe me, it really is terrible and very, very wrong.

I'm sorry to have to write you with such directness. But any other way would be to deceive you and that I will not do. It would also be to encourage you, and I can't do that, either.

Meaning well is far, far from enough.

Sincerely,

15 January, 1975

Harold Weisberg  
Route 8  
Frederick, MD.  
21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

As you have suggested, our S.F.-based committee on political assassinations is attempting to sort out the "tons of garbage freely available" from the factual material.

I hope I do not waste your time in soliciting responses to research questions which remain unanswered or have dubious "solutions." Because you are in a position (and have the background) to separate truth and fiction, it is you I consult. Please allow this intrusion on your time. If my questions are esoteric, or just not pertinent, your lack of response will be appropriate.

I have found a feature article which contains purported statements of fact, the validity of, you may be able to affirm or deny. The article is "From Dallas to Watergate," by Richard Raznikov, from The Pacific Sun, November 1973.

While much of the article is an uncredited paraphrase of Jim Garrison's coup de'etat thesis, and perhaps too general to comment on, a few assertions are specific, and as such, sensational. Included in this article are photographs of Jim Hicks, William Seymour, Loren Hall, and three arrested Dealey Plaza "tramps" given identities in the text.

My reason for asking for your comments on the article is because you are a first-hand source (excluding the FBI-CIA) regarding the False Oswald, mentioned by Raznikov. I suspect that some of his assertions are simply a would-be detective's surmises, and their lack of ambiguity (or tact) is dramatic, if not irresponsible. But they merit comment, since many of the individuals mentioned have been discussed by you in Oswald in New Orleans. I will underline those assertions in question. The pertinent part of the article I would appreciate your comments on, is as follows:

In the spring and summer of 1963 the CIA, in violation of express presidential orders of the Neutrality Act, continued to train Cuban exiles for an invasion of Cuba. Two secret training camps in Louisiana and Florida, stockpiled munitions and collected weapons and electronic equipment. At one of them a team of professional killers was in training for an assassination of Castro. In July, word of these maneuvers reached the President, and he ordered the camps raided by the F.B.I. and Secret Service agents.



Continuing, he says:

A number of interesting persons were at No Name Key in Florida and at Lake Pontchartrain in Louisiana. At the former were James Mc Cord, Frank Sturgis, Bernard Barker, and Eugenio Martinez, later all of Watergate fame, and David Ferrie, a CIA pilot and Oswald's "baby sitter." Also at No Name Key was William Seymour, who was later to impersonate Oswald in Dallas at a rifle range called the Sports Drome, a gun shop, and a new car agency. . .

Arrested at the Louisiana camp were eleven men, one of whom was Richard Lauchli, co-founder of the Minutemen. Also at Lake Pontchartrain was Emilio Santana, a weapons expert who later confessed to a New Orleans Grand Jury that he had been one of the assassins of President Kennedy, and Fred Lee Crisman, a Minuteman who appears in photos of persons arrested in Dealey Plaza. Carl Oglesby, one researcher, claims that most of these men show up in photos taken at the camps, and that Jack Ruby, who was later to kill Oswald, is in one of the pictures.

The direct result of Kennedy's raids of these secret camps was the planning for his assassination, and there are clear indications that men at these camps participated in it.

Santana, who is now missing, was one of the gunmen. Others involved were members of the Minutemen who had apparently broken ties with the parent organization, including Crisman and a man who may be John Blumar, shown in photos of Dealey Plaza arrests. The radio man for the operation was James Hicks, who confessed his involvement to New Orleans Grand Jury and has since vanished. William Seymour, besides setting up Oswald, was seen fleeing the Texas School Book Depository by Roger Craig.

The operational level of the murder involved anti-Castro Cubans many of whom were acquainted with Lee Oswald. At least a dozen men were part of the ambush at Dealey Plaza, some of whom were Minutemen or American Nazis. . .

I have ~~three~~ questions. What parts of the above excerpt are factual, fanciful, or improvisational? Have you seen the photos of men at the camps in Florida and Louisiana that Oglesby is supposed to have seen, especially the one with Ruby in it? What can be verified, and what is mere guesswork?

I hope that, given a few spare moments, a response to these questions I ask may be forthcoming. Thanks for considering this long letter.

Sincerely,  
*Garrett Timmermans*  
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