

Telephone call re Kerry Thornley - Nov. 27, 1968:

As we were preparing to leave today, I got a telephone call from a man whose name I understood to be Raum, who identified himself as a reporter for a Tampa paper and who called, he said, to ask if I had written a letter on DA Garrison's stationery, which he then misrepresented. ~~Then he asked me to read the letter which he did and as he did he saw it was not what had been represented to him.~~

I told him I was in New Orleans without a typewriter, that my handwriting is illegible, and that, as a courtesy, Louis Ivon had asked a pool stenographer to type a memorandum for me. I told him I explained to her it had nothing to do with the office, that I had asked her to type it on a plain piece of paper, and that, because it was a memo, I had no cause to see it again and that, in fact, I never had and had not even signed it. He acknowledged it was unsigned. I explained to him that a number of people believed Thornley looked much like Oswald; that there was a question, could he have been mistaken for Oswald; and that this was what I was checking out. He acknowledged there was no misrepresentation because I had asked ~~ask~~ that only one of each pair of pictures be touched up and that I had even pointed out I had printed the pictures backward, whereas, had I not, it would not have been known. ~~He~~ I said, if anything, the artwork was in Thornley's favor and not against his interest because he looked more like Oswald before the artwork than he did afterwards, to which Raum readily agreed. He said this had been given to his paper by Thornley's lawyer, and I pointed out this had been for a special purpose because the incident was quite old and not at all new to Thornley or his lawyer. I explained how they learned about it. He was interested in my interest in Thornley, and I explained it, going back to the December 1966 Joe Dolan show and the caller-in. I told him about my subsequent check of Thornley's testimony and Lt. Donovan's testimony and how Thornley's knowledge of Oswald's high security clearance was inconsistent with his repeated statement of Oswald's "Communism". Raum said Barbara Reid had been represented to him as a "practitioner of Witchcraft" and he said these words had been used. I then told him of Thornley's close friendship with Barbara Reid and his trust in her until he left New Orleans, which Raum agreed did not jibe with later claims she was a witch. I told him the basis, that Kerry claimed she kept a voodoo altar in her home, and told him that on one occasion a replica had been erected in her home for TV use and with Thornley's assistance. Raum ~~expressed~~ expressed surprise. I told him Thornley and his people regularly represented Barbara as the only or the chief Garrison witness against Thornley and explained neither Thornley nor I or anyone outside of Garrison's office had any way of knowing. I added Barbara was not the only one who told me of having seen Oswald and Thornley together.

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I told him of my visit to Grant(?) Bolton and its purpose. I told him I assured Thornley of the literary rights to any value I might add to his knowledge, which Raum agreed was unusual and fair, and he readily acknowledged not having been told any of these things. I offered him copies of Thornley's testimony, told him how ~~he~~ he could get it from Helen Hartmann, giving him her telephone number and, as a touchstone, suggested he compare the picture of Thornley given to "Open City" as Thornley's appearance at the time of the assassination with the actual picture the Commission's evidence as Thornley Exhibit No. 1. I gave him Barbara's telephone number and offered to answer any other questions he might have or to supply documentary proof of anything I had published.

He did not know I had made no charges against Thornley, did not know everything I had published was of earlier vintage, and did not know of the

allegations Thornley and Lifton are making, so I told him what they were and showed him they are false.

He said they were already past deadline at the time of his call, but that ~~now~~ they would print this story in tomorrow's edition. I told him neither Thornley or his lawyer nor anyone else had ever sought me out to ask me any questions about any of this. He promised to send me copies of their stories and of what had been given to him so that I could compare and see if there are any alterations.

I told him his paper was being used as part of a propaganda campaign and that to accomplish this gross misrepresentation had been made. I also told him Thornley, when given the opportunity by WLCY, did not confront me, that I had agreed to confront through my wife when he was asked in my absence and that when confronted with what I had actually said on WLCY rather than his misrepresentations of it, Thornley was without complaint against me. I told him if WLCY could not supply him with a tope of this, I could.

He was not aware of the "Open City" stories by Thornley and Lifton and was not aware of the numerous errors therein as acknowledged in the errata sheet for he had not been given copies.