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Dear Henry,

You may remember that when you had your heart attack I wrote and urged you to walk as much as you could and to keep doing it. That was preaching what I practise. I was just reminded of this as the <sup>result</sup> of some tests done on my legs and thighs that were giving me a little trouble after an auto accident. According to the family doctor, who told me after my 1989 heart operation that he'd expected me to lose my legs 10 years before that, these tests show that I do not have a functioning artery in either leg and the patch where the plastic artery in my left thigh connects with the arteries in that leg is clogged up. But, dear friend, I still have those legs and after I ~~finish~~ finish this I'm going to put them to use as I do six <sup>times</sup> mornings a week in walking. No sign of gangrene. But it made me think again, what do I do with what time remains for me?

I do not remember whether I ever told you, and I made but passing reference to it in my fifth book after he died, but I had a relationship with Senator Richard Russell, who had been a member of the Warren Commission. Among other things, he refused to believe that single-bullet theory without which the Warren Report could not have concluded that there was only the single assassin. From what I saw attributed to you at the time of that assassination's 29th anniversary, you seem to have changed your mind about what you told me the first time we met, that you also did not believe it. Well, my work since then, with the official records, leaves it without question that it not only was not possible, the Commission staff and the FBI knew it.

A while back, to make a record for history if nothing else, I wrote a lengthy article titled, "Senator Russell Dissents." He was not <sup>alone</sup> only in refusing to believe that theory on which the report and the "solution" are based. He told me that Senator John Sherman Cooper was adamant in refusing to believe it and that to a lesser degree Hale Boggs, then a Louisiana Congressman and also a member, would not.

Friends who can travel, as I cannot, have gotten me records from the archives of these two Senators at their State universities more than establishing that what Russell told me is so.

Russell forced an executive session 9/18/64 to record his refusal to believe that or to sign a report saying it. Rankin, who ran the commission, deceived him and Cooper. As when you and Dean Storey and Jaworski were there on 1/24/64 he saw to it that there was no court reporter. But Russell had written out what he was going to say there and I have it. He also had doubts about Oswald being alone, about connections he could have had. He believed they were "red" and I know that Oswald was actually an anti-Communist. Even when

he was in Stalin's USSR. That was crazier than it was daring!

Thinking about this led me to decide to expand that article into a book that, whether or not it is ever published, will improve the record for history.

Several years ago I was writing about the reports that Oswald had worked for the FBI, which I was not inclined to believe. But I did think he could have had some such minor connection. I do have the documentation for the fact that as a Marine, when he was getting pro-Communist literature in Russian through the mails, he did have a CRYPTO security clearance. And CRYPTO required TOP SECRET clearance.

I have not yet reread what I then wrote but I do recall that I used the notes I made after talking to you and to Dean Storey. (The same day, and you were both nice to me because of the heavy rain. You had your driver take me to his office and he offered me a ride when I left, but someone was picking me up.) You both were clear in your belief that there was a court reporter present, or at least someone taking it down in shorthand.

Well, that was for show only, as it was later for Russell and Cooper. There is no such transcript in the Commission's files. Instead there is a memo on it that Rankin wrote in which he did not include what he did not want in any record. But he did include the number Oswald was supposed to have had. *From one of you.*

You may remember that in all the Commission said about that it used the number S-179 or S-172. The FBI has no such numbering system for informers, as you may remember.

I believe that you gave Rankin <sup>the correct</sup> ~~that~~ number and that your source was Lonnie Hudkins.

Lonnie became a friend after he went to work on a Baltimore paper. He is now on a Buffalo paper. He and Mary have been talking about coming here for a couple of years but he survived some serious medical problem and hasn't. And he does not respond when I ask him his source. We are still friends. But while he has talked much, not on that.

The story he gave me years ago is that he and Aynesworth (who denied it to me) and Bill Alexander decided to use that made-up number in the belief their phones were tapped by the FBI. He also said that they had no sooner used that number on the phone than they had visitors. I never tried to talk to Alexander.

The actual number in that Rankin memo is consistent with CIA numbering. It is 110669.

And when I had someone else speak to Lonnie before we ever met he knew it. Which is why I believe he was your source. I know of no other record reflecting the number and I do know that Lonnie knew it in 1968, without ever having seen that Rankin memo.

So, I write to see if this can trigger any recall after all these years and whether you recall that Lonnie was your source.

Quite a few CIA records have now been disclosed. I know someone who is working in them. He is writing a book on what he learns from them. He told me that at least three CIA components had an interest in Oswald before they established their 201 file on him. All three were in counterintelligence. One worked in our agents, one worked on theirs

and one worked on doubles, as I recall what he told me.

I do not intend saying that Oswald worked for the CIA or anything like that. I am addressing the questions Russell had. I have what he had typed out to tell his fellow Commissioners at that executive session just before the report was issued. In it he expressed doubts about Oswald being all alone. He was convinced that Oswald had killed JFK.

He was pretty sharp, too!

A week after it was appointed, before it was staffed, it held its first executive session. Nicholas Katzenbach was there. He told them that the leaks could have come only from the FBI, for one thing, because only the FBI had the information that was leaked.

I have a perceptive Russell handwritten memo in which he said at that early date that Katzenbach, the FBI and Rankin had already decided that it was Oswald all alone. That was six days before the Commission got the report LBJ had ordered the FBI to make on its investigation. Which was limited to Oswald alone. And in five volumes does not include ~~leave~~ all the known shooting or even the cause of death!

Hoover really was uptight about it! He was telling the White House all sorts of things ~~that~~ that the FBI did not know and were not true. I have the records on it. I mean at the very beginning. He even entered the case when he had no jurisdiction, immediately. He got the jurisdiction when LBJ asked for that report. It then was no federal crime to kill a president. But the FBI is authorized to make investigations at presidential request.

I hope you can remember some of this. Or perhaps have some record or records. I would like to leave as much of a record as possible and an accurate one.

I hope you are well and happy and that the heat is not keeping you off the links to much!

I'm the living proof that using the legs is a must. Better with a low score, huh?

Sincerely, friend,



Harold Weisberg