Sat 5/17/63

Dear John,

Got your letter of the 14th yesterday. Dick and I spent the day at the Archives. I've leaving in a few moments to meet the first plane from New York and someone who will spend the day here. I expect Dick back today also. We visited in-laws last night. By Monday night I will complete what you want. I wish you'd answered my question earlier, for I could have done that long ago. I misunderstood you. I had begun a lengthy, detailed combination of analysis of their argument and suggestions for your lawyer. I didn't have time to complete what - had begun, nor have - been able to do what I still must for my own lawyer. Sorry, but it will be the first thing I do with the first free time I get. I'll have to do it pronto for I'm about to get even busier.

Dick will do a memo on what we have done and learned and he is having a set of films made for you of the pictures we took at the Archives. We took our own photographer, who is also a gun expert. The negatives are developed and they are good, very good. With luck the prints will be done today.

Until he does, we have been able to reproduce the lip dent by extremely vigorous ejection.

We have an excellent police range here, and we worked there day before yesterday. Fortunately, we were joined by a real expert who provided the key on this and showed us how. If there is anything of this sort you want done, I can arrange it here.

It turns out that while my ammo is military, it is not Western.

While I presume you are familiar with Dr. Lattimer's fakery, especially because he cites you in a footnote, I include herewith a copy of his International Surgery piece which you can return at your convenience—no hurry at all, in case it is of use now. I note interestingly enough that on page 527 he is careful to assure that "the officers of the National Archives did not violate any of the requests of President Kennedy's family concerning this evidence", in connection with his alleged examination of the unfired bullet. This is quite interesting, in view of the fact that there is no mention at all of this bullet in any of the papers or in the so-called "contract", for the bullet was never alleged to have been Kennedy property. I wonder what the fink had in mind or was up to. If you are later called upon to respond to this reel fakery, let me know.

I asked Johnson yesterday if they had let Lattimer make microscopic examination of 399 and he said they had not. We did handle the rifle and cartridges, were allowed to remove and photograph the bolt, and I have in the past handled 399 and other objects, like the curbstone.

'In haste,

Harold Weisberg