

June 8, 1998

Professor James H. Fetzer
Department of Philosophy
University of Minnesota--Duluth
10 University Drive
Duluth, MN 55812

Dear Professor Fetzer:

Jeremy Gunn forwarded your e-mail on Oswald LeWinter to me because I have reviewed the records on Oswald LeWinter held by the CIA and the FBI. I first looked into LeWinter's background after your conversation last year with Jeremy Gunn in which you reported David Mantik's encounter with Oswald LeWinter. At that time, you reported that Mr. LeWinter claimed to be the current Deputy Director of Counterespionage for the Central Intelligence Agency with information on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. As Mr. Gunn told you later, all the evidence located by the ARRB, with the full cooperation of the CIA and the FBI, indicated that Mr. LeWinter is, in fact, a con man with an interest in intelligence and law enforcement activities who frequently appears with various claims in connection with sensational or unusual news events. The article you forwarded to Mr. Gunn appears accurate in its assessment of Mr. LeWinter's bona fides.

There is no indication in the records that Oswald LeWinter has ever been employed by or worked for the CIA in any capacity. Having reviewed the complete CIA and FBI records on Mr. LeWinter, I personally am convinced that he has never been a CIA employee or asset. Further, there is not, and never has been, a CIA title or position equivalent to a "Assistant or Deputy Director of Counterespionage."

I have examined most of Mr. LeWinter's various claims and none has been substantiated. His career and background vary from journalistic interview to journalistic interview with few consistencies. Mr. LeWinter has a long history of claiming to be a representative of various U.S. Government agencies and state law enforcement agencies. Peter Koenig's description of Mr. LeWinter as "the most formidable confidence man in the world today" is not without merit.

In short, I see nothing in the article you sent that would substantiate Mr. LeWinter's being the head of Counterespionage or in having had any knowledge of the Zapruder film. The article is, however, consistent with Mr. LeWinter's frequently making dramatic claims that are apparently believed by some people who do not consider carefully his inconsistent representations.

Sincerely,

K. Michelle Combs
Associate Director for Research
and Review

cc: David W. Mantik