

*I did not respond to this ignorant, nasty and juvenile
Self-serving attempt.*

Robert Katz
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Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, MD 21702

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I hope you will bear with me for writing again. I have read some more of your material on the JFK assassination since I last wrote you. I believe your efforts are well researched and sincere, but I am still unpersuaded of the existence of a conspiracy to kill JFK.

I would be willing to come around to your view that a conspiracy existed if I could find evidence that can reasonably reconcile CE 567 and CE 569, the two large bullet fragments found by FBI agents in the interior of the Presidential limousine, with Oswald's innocence of the assassination. It is my understanding that these fragments were matched ballistically to Oswald's rifle; if that is so, the fragments are evidence that someone using Oswald's rifle fired it at the limousine and therefore intended to kill one of its passengers. It seems to me that discussions of CE 567 and CE 569 are conspicuous by their absence in critics' works.

I am also still looking for evidence that can reasonably reconcile the fired cases found by Domingo Benavides--the ones that were dropped by the murderer of J. D. Tippitt--with Oswald's innocence of that crime. It is my understanding that the cases were matched ballistically to the pistol Oswald was carrying when he was arrested. If Benavides was telling the truth when he said that those cases were the ones dropped by the killer--and several people saw the killer drop cases from a pistol--I think Oswald would have been convicted of murdering Tippitt even if no eyewitness could have positively identified him as being at the scene of the crime. Discussion of the fired cases from the Tippitt murder also seems to me to be conspicuous by its absence in critics' works.

If you could point me in the direction of a discussion of either of the above issues in one or another of the critics' works, I would be interested in reading about them.

As to your point about the absence of Oswald's fingerprints on what I believe to be the assassination weapon, it is my understanding that Marina Oswald reported seeing her husband practicing with the Mannlicher-Carcano on at least one occasion.

If that is the case, it is evidence that Oswald did handle the rifle before the assassination, even if none of his fingerprints were found on it.

I have also read that the handwriting on the back of a copy of one of those notorious pictures of Oswald holding the Mannlicher-Carcano ("okhotnik za fashistov kha-kha-kha!") is Marina Oswald's. I am inclined to think that if the handwriting is hers, it is evidence that the pictures are genuine. If the pictures are genuine, they are further evidence that Oswald handled the rifle.

I also understand that there is evidence that Oswald was actually a pretty good shot when he wanted to be. At any rate, I am unpersuaded, in the absence of any proof, by the argument that is an impossibility that Oswald could have hit two out of three shots at JFK with his rifle.

I am also less willing than you to dismiss the idea that CE 399 caused JFK's neck wound and all of Governor Connally's wounds. I have read that the entrance wound in Governor Connally's back was elliptical in shape. I also know that rifle bullets, by definition, spin true through the air on their axes. If the Governor's back wound was elliptical, I believe it is evidence that he was struck from above and behind by a rifle bullet which had already passed through an object, and which therefore had been jarred off its axis. I realize that I am eliminating the possibility that Connally was struck by a pistol bullet or a shotgun charge, but I am unaware of any evidence that anyone fired a pistol or a shotgun at Governor Connally from above and behind. If you are aware of any such evidence, I would be interested in reading about it.

In continuing to read about the assassination I discovered that I have another assassination "connection" besides the one to Arlen Specter. You may be familiar with the name of Vincent Salandria, a Philadelphia lawyer who was one of the first to publish the theory that the shot that struck JFK in the head must have come from the front. Mr. Salandria based his theory (with which I disagree) on his viewing of the Zapruder film. I do not know Mr. Salandria (although my father does, and has a very high regard for him), but when I was in my late teens and early twenties I was friends with his (adopted) son, Ernie, who was also the childhood best friend of a close friend of mine.

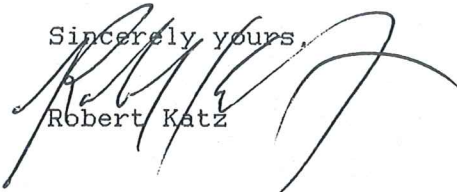
Ernie's is a tragic story. Some years ago, he began to get involved with drugs, and he wound up selling them. He then murdered one of his customers, spent some time on the lam, reappeared, confessed, and did eight years for the crime. He disappeared after he got out of prison. Whenever I think of

Ernie I always think that it could have been me.

I now recall being at a get-together at my friend's house in 1978 or 1979 where Ernie Salandria and Arlen Specter's younger son, Stephen, were both present. I guess I live in a small town. It is an odd irony that Stephen also had a (far less serious) scrape with the law a few years back. I suppose that it could easily have been him as well. All of us were wise-ass lawyers' kids.

If you change your mind about the futility of corresponding with me because of my stubbornness, I am still here.

Sincerely yours,


Robert Katz