

W.C. Confluent
- J. C.

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1447 Third Street
Santa Monica, Cal.

The editor
Los Angeles Times
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Dear Sir:

It is really amazing how different American thinking and behaviour is to that of the rest of the world.

Take as an example the Dallas events. My interpretation, as sent to Latin America for a foundation for judgement acceptable to the Latin American mind is as follows:

- 1) "Newsweek" magazine published in its Dec. 2, 1963, issue, on page 20 an excellent photograph of President Kennedy slumping into his wife's arms as hit by a bullet. Governor Conolly can be seen sitting with his back turned. He hasn't yet started turning, as reported when hit by the second shot. The distance between Pres. Kennedy's head and his wife's arms or the protection of the car's back seat is approximately a foot.
- 2) The rifle used was a vintage 6.5mm Carcano. This rifle like all army rifles of that period, fired a flat trajectory high velocity steel encased bullet, requiring a comparative large powder charge. Hence the recoil was pretty stiff, and the bolt action had to be extra strong, tight fitting and hard. The ejection of spent casing and ramming of fresh bullet can only be accomplished in the Carcano, as in the Mauser Lebel, Lee-Enfield or Maülicher, with the rifle at waist high, tightly held in the left hand and under the right arm. The loading action is very much more complicated than an under lever action as in Remington's or Winchester, or a pump gun action. The distance from shoulder to possible loading position is approx. 18 inches, hence the return trip for proper aim plus loading position takes a distance of about 3 feet as against the 1 foot President Kennedy's head had to travel for head protection.
- 3) According to news reports Pres. Kennedy was hit first, then Gov. Conolly, then again President Kennedy in the head. This would only have been possible if President Kennedy's head had remained stationary and above the car's back seat during the time it would require to reload and take careful aim at 80 to 100 yards for a target of about 12 inch diameter, three consecutive times. Judging by the photograph in paragraph this can not have occurred.
- 4) If anyone has any doubts on the accuracy of this statements, it can easily be checked by firing an unloaded rifle at any 12 inch target held by some one at 6 feet high, and then bring down the rifle and go through the unloading and loading bolt action and fire again at the falling target. This can only be done if the second shot is a waist high snap shot, and if the rifleman is trained and very fast. Even then, the second waist high snap shot will be fired when the falling target is about 1 foot from the ground, having covered a 5 feet fall.

last shooting can only be done if ^{the} falling target is not more than 15 yards away. If the target is over 60 yards, as was the case in Dallas, it is impossible to get in two shot at a 12 inch falling target. From January 1924 to January 23, 1925, when I was discharged, I served as a G.I. in the Argentine Army. I was trained during that period as a "fusilero" (rifleman) and in the use of bayonets, with a 7.65 mm Mauser, very similar to the Carcano, so I know what I'm talking about.

6) Oswald, if he killed President Kennedy, was obviously not meaning to kill him. He had been a marine, so it is to be assumed that he knew something about shooting. Hence he would never have shot at his target after it had passed him, presenting the small head area only. He would have shot at President Kennedy as he was driving towards him in the open car, presenting the target of all his body in an open car. Anyone capable of handling a rifle, even ineptly, can not possibly miss with a telescopic sight at a human body sitting in a car at 80 to 100 yards. And what is more, someone who can shoot can get in three or four bullets, regardless of whether he slumps down or not, as there no longer is the protection of the car's body. The target is open.

5) On this basis, and assuming Oswald knew something about shooting which would be the case if he hit Pres. Kennedy intentionally, his target was Gov. Conolly and not Pres. Kennedy. As the car was moving away from him Conolly presented his whole back as a target area. While the car was coming toward Oswald (the ideal target position for Pres. Kennedy) Conolly was covered by the men in the front seat, which is why Oswald waited for the car to pass him.

7) Carcano rifles are pretty inaccurate and their shots differ in trajectory. Aside of which the cheap telescopic sight he bought did not assure good aim. It seems probable, and logical in my Latin American way of thinking, that Oswald aimed the first shot at Conolly and hit Pres. Kennedy instead. Then he got in the second shot at Conolly, hitting the target, but in the meantime another shot hit Pres. Kennedy, falling head before it reached the protection of his wife's arms and body of the car.

8) First reports were that the bullets had not been found, either in Pres. Kennedy or the Governor. Now, according to reports, the bullets have been removed from the body and also found in Gov. Conolly. But when radio coverage gave first reports from Dallas, at the time of the incident, it was mentioned that a "fusilade" of shots was being exchanged. That people dropping to the ground for coverage and protection. That a couple was running up an embankment with the police in pursuit. That a negro woman, with a wounded child in her arms, had come to the hospital where both Pres. Kennedy and the Governor had been taken to, and that to some policemen the shots had merely seemed as backfiring cars. In our minds, people do not start running and dropping to the ground merely because of three spaced shots, which could be interpreted as backfire. Hence, as no sound track has been divulged of the events, there is no proof that only a total of three shots were fired. Beside, even if there were, there is no reason why any well trained gunman or rifleman, in U.S. gangster tradition, shouldn't have used a silencer, a logical thing to do once an obvious patsy or fall guy (Oswald) had been induced to shoot at the Governor.

As you are always publishing in the Los Angeles Times reports, opinions and U.S. analysis of Latin American affairs, I trust that this letter will interest you as a way to achieve an insight into the working of our minds.