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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Assassination
Fletcher Knebel's piece analyzing [Edward Jay] Epstein's book is fine journalism [*A New Wave of Doubt*,

Look, July 12]. However, let us not be too hard on anyone who, though ineptly, tries to throw more light on the Kennedy assassination. Along with other members of the local news fraternity, I am not at all satisfied with several aspects of the case. Let's face it—everybody who has conducted an investigation had a certain end in mind: The Warren Commission was thinking of the national image; Epstein wanted a degree; the FBI and Secret Service, on the defensive because of their respective goofs, were mainly bent on face-saving. To date, deferred probes (like Epstein's) have been nit-picking affairs. That's because everyone assumes the whole business must be there in the voluminous Warren Report, if only it can be crested out. Original research might, at night, turn up a fresh angle.

JAMES KOEHL
Dallas, Texas

The careful analysis by Fletcher Knebel should be made a part of and sold with each copy of *Inquest* by Epstein, whose book will raise more serious doubts among foreign peoples than Americans, who know devious assassination plots are not way of life in our stable government.

MRS. THOMAS E. SCHACHER
Mansfield, Ohio

The best that can be said about Fletcher Knebel's frenetic efforts to plug the rash of leaks in the Warren Commission's porous one-assassin theory is that Knebel might have radiated some of the evidence adduced by dissertationist Epstein. No amount of legalistic persiflage or semantic jargon, however, can explain away the inconsistency of the bullet trajectories, the anachronistic time-spacing between shots or the wound of a bystander far out of Oswald's

range. It just won't wash. My own investigations have put me in contact with a number of physiologists. To a man, they have agreed that a person wounded in the back of the neck will instinctively grab for the back of the neck. The fact that President Kennedy clutched at his throat is cogent evidence that an assassin was stationed ahead of him. Oswald was not the lone, unaided assassin."

ARNOLD M. GALLER
New York, N.Y.

Please tell me again how three men could have made four separate wounds and how a bullet fired from the sixth floor could pass upwards through Kennedy's body. And please tell me again the accusation Justice Warren made before any evidence was in.

HAL PFEIFFER
Santa Monica, Calif.

Among these facts are: Mr. Warren's own statement in February of 1964 (before the report was published) to the effect that not in our lifetime would the public know some of the things the Commission had uncovered. . . .

WILLIAM W. EATON
Los Angeles, Calif.

After all, Knebel admits . . . the criticisms reflect the thoughts of a majority. . . . Surely, we are not yet, like Alice, living in a looking-glass world where things are not as they seem.

WALTER ROBER
Wichita, Kans.