

Summary of Meeting

August 30, 1975

Present: Sylvia Heagber, Al Lowenstein

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1. Givens status as last man to see Oswald before shooting. See p. 143 of the Warren Report, paragraph one. "Charles Givens, who was the last known employee to see Oswald inside the building prior to the assassination."
2. Oswald Bus Trip. Bus is a strange getaway car. More plausible, however, to have an assassin flee, however inefficiently, than remain on the scene.
3. Men on fifth floor. (See page 70 of Warren Report.) Some direct quotations are given on this page, not merely summary statements. debris said to have fallen on Williams' head from floor above. They are said to have heard shells striking the floor. Williams, Jordan, and Norman present. Shots are heard, also "the ejecting of the rifle." They go to the fourth floor after the shooting, which is not mentioned in the Warren Report. It is also 15 minutes until they go down to the street and make a report. Norman later said that the FBI account of the interview with him was incorrect.
4. Police. Sawyer. Fried Chicken found on 5th floor. This is at Vol 24, p. 847. Also, an account from KRIB radio, on 11/22/63.
5. Routes published in the press. Some references to general locations of the motorcade occurred on November 19 and 16. On November 19, the Dallas Times Herald gave a correct route for Kennedy. (The Warren Commission description of these accounts appears on the top of page 40.) On the morning of November 22, however, the Dallas Morning News printed a mistaken route. This was cut out of the photo of this edition which was reproduced in the Warren Commission report, however. Question: What was the other coverage of the President's route in the Dallas press from 11/16 to 11/22? Was the inaccurate report on 11/22 isolated, or were there other cases of inaccurate reports? (Liz Triplett is checking. 214-522-1897.)
6. Oswald bag. Frazier and Mrs. Randall remember that Oswald was carrying a bag. No one in the building, however, remembers him with one. Dougherty, ~~Lowenstein~~ Warren Report, volume six, pp. 376-377, saw Oswald at around

8:00 and reported not remembering anything that Oswald was carrying. George reportedly left in shed. The depository was searched months after the assassination, and no curtain rods were found. It is claimed that an enormous paper bag was found at the scene after the assassination. Wanted evidence? Was such a bag could have been manufactured is considered. Paper and wet tape from the depository have markings on them which would identify as bag manufactured there. Bag would have been old-shaped - long and narrow. Were bags of that size available in Dallas at that time. Would special bags be available if curtain rods were purchased? No evidence exists that Oswald made his own bag. (S'Cool doesn't believe that DeLozier was telling the truth. DeLozier thinks his story sounds credible.) Oswald later said that he didn't have any bag, but the evidence is against him. Said he had only his lunch. Possibly was lying because he felt that a bag would suggest a gun.

7. Lead letter of ice package. All we know is in the book. (p. 63) We don't know when it was arrived. Presumably it came ~~xxx~~ before the assassination, since Oswald's name would have been recognized afterward. Exists as an unpublished Warren Commission exhibit, but does not appear in any of the Warren Commission volumes.

8. Ordered rifle. Some reference to rifle ordered by Oswald which he didn't get, or even an ad he didn't see. 36 inch barrel vs. 40 inch barrel. Reference not clear.

9. Printed unlisted phone number. Reference not clear.

10. James Thompson. Other person who was hit by a bullet at the time of the shooting. Where exactly was he located? Hit on the cheek. See Warren Commission Report pp. 115-117. Fresh mark on the curb or cars ~~to~~ have been caused by a bullet. Third shot may have hit the curb or street. Officer J.L. Hill reports on Tague at 10:40 P.M.

11. Car and bullet fragments. Car was left open outside of Parkland Hospital - evidence may have been lost at this point. Then taken on the plane to D.C., left at White House. Inspected that night by the Secret Service, two large bullet fragments were recovered from it: one weighing 44.6 grains, the other weighing 21 grains. A day later the FBI inspected it, and recovered ~~t~~ two small fragments of from seven-tenths to nine-tenths of a grain. (See Warren Report, pp. 76-77. At an undetermined time, the car was removed for remodeling.

12. Wecht and other questions. Bullets imbedded in the back seat might have been unreported by Secret Service or FBI. They are suspect of both incompetence and deception. A Kennedy neck bullet fired from the front might have gone either out of the car or into back seat. Three small fragments, totalling 2.5 grains, were found in the area of the jump seat.

What was done to Kennedy's body? (See Manchester). Was it embalmed? Would any evidence of bullet paths still be available from it? For Wecht: 1.) Can a bullet transit a body and leave no internal marks? 2.) Might marks be detected after 12 years, in a well-preserved body? 3.) Complete body X-rays were taken. Would bullet paths necessarily show up on such X-rays? 4.) What was the strange rectangular object in Kennedy's head, first identified by Clark panel?

13. Lattimer account. Trajectory of bullet said to be higher than in Commission diagram. Bullet entrance point is also found to be higher than commission states. This bullet, now put entering at about the hairline, is now seen almost to be merging with the other bullet higher in the head. These issues can be checked with Wecht.

14. Connally wounds. See Meagher, pp. 156-159. One bullet which hit Connally made a big wound in flesh, tiny one in the clothes (?). In early report, Connally's doctors stated that one bullet might have caused all of his wounds. Later, after they saw the evidence (and photographs?) they revised this to say that Connally's wounds might have been caused by two or even three bullets. The Warren Commission only cites the first report, ignoring totally their second and revised report, based on additional information. Major distortion on part of the Commission.

15. Liebeler, in an interview or debate switches on single bullet theory, admits serious mistake on the part of the Warren Commission.

16. Two issues subsequently checked: Oswald discharge from army and England to Finland flight issue. Dan Rather was assigned to Dallas at the time, was not, however, White House correspondent during this period. Broadcasts made by him from Dallas.

17. Oswald a secret agent? Learned to speak Russian early alone. Worked at U-2 base in Japan. Circumstances of discharge (later checked). Legal brief written from Russia. State Department (?). J. Edgar Hoover (?). The fact that he was an agent or had intelligence connections doesn't prove that there was a conspiracy. Does, however, raise questions, and demonstrate the incompetence of the Warren Commission. Some kind of approach can be taken with Jack Ruby. Point is not that we know the answers, but that the Warren Commis-

18. Suspicious deaths. Nine from book and two or three since then. A few of the deaths listed in the book (of which there were 18) may not be highly significant. The suspicious deaths are: 1.) Jim Koethe, 2.) Bill Hunter, 3.) Hank Killam, 4.) William Whaley, 5.) Lee Eowers, 6.) (?) McDonald, 7.) (?) Reynolds, 8.) (?) Runcel, 9.) James Worel. Also, 10.) Bogart (see footnote on page 302), 11.) Roger Craig, and possibly, 12.) (?) Ferry. Chapter in Neagher's book deals with this. The great collector of mysterious deaths is Penn Jones, who has more than 80, including Hale Boggs. Craig was a car salesman who apparently saw Oswald or a second Oswald. Apparent suicide. Ferry reported to have worked in a gas station (?). Researcher for a lawyer who was working for Marcello. Possible homosexual, pilot, wore a read wig, intelligent, interested in off-beat philosophy. Marcello was declared innocent, and Ferry went off to Houston to roller skate. But under intense pressure by Garrison, he died of a thrombosis. Death probably not significant. From actuarial viewpoint, these deaths are highly unusual, but not hard evidence of anything. Mistake to put too much emphasis on them.

19. Rifle markings. Mauser later became a Manlicher Carcano. How was this mistake made? Do rifles have a brand name or type name stamped on them? British Enfield. What kinds of identification are there? Is it plausible to confuse a Mauser with a Manlicher Carcano? Ask Joling.

20. Tippit. Bowley, the only one who looked at his watch at the scene of the Tippit murder was never interviewed. Reports of time vary: 1:07, 1:05, 1:16. Police radio call taken.

21. Lattimer. Book references are given for sections dealing with the issue of wounds and angles of wounds. See pages 139 and 148. See also, page 32. A 45 degree downward angle was somehow switched to a 17 degree angle. Slope of the street enters into the calculations. See commission exhibit 903, volume 18, page 96. ~~RESEARCHER'S WORK (IN CONNECTION WITH)~~ Excellent but technical work has been done on this subject by Robert Cutler. Difficult to follow. Cutler extrapolates the origin of the shots as being the first or second floor, rather than the sixth floor. Neagher believes other people have also come to that conclusion, but cannot remember who, offhand. Frames 225-236 of the Xanxander film are important in this connection.

and the cops who he has told this to earlier and are on the scene also don't. It also doesn't show up in any of their reports. Could he have gotten in through the sub-basement? Calls had been coming in before the attempted transfer that about 100 people were going to hijack ~~himself~~ ~~lynch~~ him. Yet ~~nothing~~ ~~happened~~ to Oswald is unimpeached. Worst part is the peculiarity about how it was attempted to establish how he got in.

27. George Senator. Lived with Oswald. Twilight kind of character. Jewish, homosexual. As soon as he hears that Oswald had been shot he rushes to his lawyer. Afterward sleeps in a different place every night out of fear. See volume 15 of the Warren Commission.

28. England to Helsinki. See pages 689-691 of Warren Report. On Aug. 17, 1959, he applies for a dependency discharge. On August 28 it was recommended that this be approved. On Sept. 4, he is transferred. On September 8, he applies for a passport. On September 11, he is discharged. His mother had been injured on Dec. 12, December of 1958. Had been giving part of his salary to his mother while in the Marines. (In prison, he had taken the tests for a high school equivalency diploma.) Oswald was very competent functionary in the Marines, not a moron as later described. Under technicalities had access to highly classified information. Instead of returning to take care of his mother, he stays with her for only two days, from September 18 to September 20. (Mother infirm, had acute nasopharyngitis.) Later Oswald's mother went to the State Department in Washington, said she was certain he was an agent, after he was in Russia. She also sent him money in Russia, rather than by supporting her. For documentation of Oswald, see Wilson, Volume 19 of the Warren Commission, p. 724. Discharge not quick, but on false grounds.

Mention is made at this point of White Russian sophisticate, likely agent, man of the world, who later befriended Oswald, a prig, writer, and very unlikely choice. Another intelligence connection.

"Oswald disembarked at Le Havre on October 8. He left for England that same day, and arrived on October 9. He told English customs officials in Southampton that he had \$700 and planned to remain in the United Kingdom for one week before proceeding to a school in Switzerland. But on the same day, he flew to Helsinki, Finland, where he registered at the Tokki Hotel; on the following day he moved to the Njous Kurki Hotel." Warren Commission, p. 690.

Was there a night boat from Le Havre? In fact, Oswald left England on the tenth rather than the ninth. He left Helsinki on the 15th, and arrived in Moscow on the 16th. Documents relating to Oswald's movements at this point are: Commission Exhibit 2711, volume 26, page 39 of the exhibit, Commission Exhibit 946, p. 7, and Commission Exhibit 2676, p. 1. No footnote in Warren Report on how he got to Helsinki.

Oswald arrived at Helsinki airport at ~~XXXXX~~ 11:23 p.m. Not likely to have arrived at the Torni Hotel before Oct. 11, but they might have continued to register early morning arrivals as coming in on the previous day. See volume 26, page 32. (See vol. 26, p. 32. Also see Meagher, pp. 330-331, and vol. 18, p. 162.) ~~§~~ Oswald arrival on 11:33 is on the assumption that he took a direct flight.

Questions: 1. Why did they misstate the day he left England? Why is there no footnote here? ~~XXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ 2. Why don't they state how he got from England? 3. When did the plane leave England? What flight number? 4. What time did he arrive at the Torni Hotel?

How did Oswald get from Southampton to London? (Military flight to Finland is unlikely - would have been from a different airport.) Nothing to back up the fact that he left LeHavre on the 8th, arrived in England on the 9th. (?)

29. Legal Brief. Remarkable document for someone without legal training. Complaint that someone else had used his passport. Underlined reference to the "special training he had received since his discharge." See Meagher, pp. 340-341. See volume 26, pp. 14-17. Parts of the U.S. Code referred to by Oswald looked up by Schweiker's office. Quotes from his letter citing legal codes or referring to similar notations:

"I must ~~omit~~ (written as #find," - presumably miscopied) out that I have not violated any laws under U.S. Code Section 1544, title 18." p. 16.

"This is a case which comes under the heading: NAVEXOS 15(e)(4) I.E., a discharge improperly issued."

"Affirmation of contents of affidavit can be had by contrasting that naval _____ (difficult to make out), office or officer who can give such affirmation of contents, (12(A)NAVEXOS P-70)."

"regardless of the findings of the Board in accordance with paragraph 15(e)5)..."

30. Captain Fritz - Exchange quoted from Meagher, p. 308.

31. Oswald photo missing head. Volume 17. Exhibit 392(?) page 884(?).

32. Warren and Ruby on men who died. Exchange appears on page 20~~4~~, volume 5.

33. January 27 executive ~~session~~ exchanges bear no relation to (autopsy information? - last part of the note is missing.)

34. FBI performed NAA on bullet fragments. Mentioned nowhere in the Warren Report or documents. Harold Weisberg forced the release of the outcome from the government. No news yet, however, about the interpretation of the results.

[REDACTED]

- 36. Miscellaneous, and uncertain notes.
- Time of a bullet route through a body close to by the time the bullet hole is discovered?
- ~~Wright and Fisher~~ by Metri, 1960.
- Name of White Russian who befriended Oswald is not in above notes.
- Lieber debate occurred in 1961.
- 203-577-1703, Sept
- Information does not exist for definitive answers to many of the important questions. Only possible outcome until info. is available is an unbroken line of the insufficiency of the Warren Commission's evidence to support their conclusions (or their inability to justify their lack of investigation) and a set of well-defined questions.
- Possibility that Oswald manufactured his bag at the Depository seems incongruent with Ferrell-Hunter testimony (?)
- Various questions are raised in our way, which is unique with Dallas, the Warren, White Paper, the Dallas, and Oswald's Chicago.
- Does one of the documents given need to be returned?
Yes (or should be) Lieber material included?