1249 Hi Point Sp. L.A. Calif. 90035 November 8, 1966

Dear Vince,

You were the

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Penn has offered to put out 1000 copies of my piece in its present manuscript form. (the price I intended, by the way, was \$2.95, not \$3.95). My sister-in-law is retyping it, and I had intended to have it to him in a week or so.

Your friend's offer to rewrite it is certainly a generous and tempting one. I'm wondering if I couldn't proceed with both approaches? As I got into my piece, I figured it for "in" people, who had previously done some general reading on the case. I felt I had to list all plausible alternate mypotheses, and note all contrary evidence to each, before concluding that 399 was planted. I knew this would make for danned tedious reading, but felt it was the heart of the study, and the proper approach for a reassanch piece — without which the article added little to previous material. I still feel that way, and would like to proceed with its limited publication as it is. But if your friend can see a way to broaden the readership base by re-writing it, I say fine.

How long would it take? Would he be willing to do it even if I proceed as is with the 1000 copies? It doesn't seem to me the publication of so small a number should preclude ar prejudice its subsequent publication in more popular form; but I've had no experience in the f industry, and would appreciate your view on this and his. If he is unwilling to proceed if I do it this way, then I'll have to re-consider the question. Whatever develops, I'm very appreciative of your help.

If he the 237-238 question, after viewing the Life films I feel one of your objections has relevancy, although it in no way affects my belief that the shoulder-slump at 238 indicates a hit at that point. But I now agree that after his shoulder slumps, his right hand is still visible apparently touching the top of the door, and does not appear to visibly move in the first manufacture few frames after 238. I would have expected that the bullet exiting from his chest whould have in the first manufacture for the first time of his chest and wrist being struck by separate missles (the wrist, conceivably by a separate whole missile, or a large fragment therefrom). This is based on similar reasoning as in calor fr. 232, photopanel JG-2, shout which I wrote that JO couldn't have part yet been hit because of the visible position of the hand. But while

the evidence against his wrist having been hit is decisive in 232, I don't believe it is in 238.

In 232, while still facing forward, his right hand is plainly visible, in an apparently normal condition, big knucles up, fingers down over the hold-bar (at Life, the separate fingers were clearly visible in the 4x5 slides). Therefore in that frame his right wrist is roughly at shoulder height (see height of hold-bar above side of car in Willis #4) -and clearly not in position or condition to have been struck by a descending bullet exiting under the right nipple.

In 238 however, after the shoulder-drop, it is only the forward portion of intr his right hand (approx. from the middle knuckles forward, If I recall) that is visible at the top of the car door. Not only is it inches lower than when on the hold-bar in 232 -- and therefore, already closer to a permissible position to have taken the exiting body-bulletbat size this is made further possible by considering that from the forward part of the hand visible in 238 to the point of entry on his forearm is a distance of perhaps six inches. Furthermore, from the position of the visible part of his booksin fingers in 238, his wrist is almost certainly bent downward, making the trajectory seem still less inconsistent for a single shot.

Accepting for the moment, that then, that a body-Grist hit is not ruled out at 238 on the basis of trajectory, the fact that his hand was not knocked down out of sight might be accounted for as follows:

- 1. the front of his hand is on the top of the door when his forearm is hit.
- 2. the bullet's trajectory would then drive his wrist and portion of hand between wrist and big knucklesforward and down; forcing palm against inside of door.
- 3. movement of wrist and hand in 2 could have occurred leaving position of forward part of fingers relatively unchanged, and visible to camera.

While I neglected to note the exact frame number at Life or the archives, from photocompany JG-2 I believe he starts to raise his right forearm to his chest at 242. I determined this by first noting the appearance of his right shirt-cuff in color frame 258\*; Then checking the white line representing the cuff in preceding frames to the point where it first appears-2 242.

\*(in 258, his forearm is going up across the chest, and the wrist bent/downward at almost 90%. I feel, broken; with the hand hanging limp. The dark area across right hand is shadow from overhead windshield frame. Flesh-scolored hemisphere at lower right I take to be his left hand; front view, with knuckles up, fingers down).

Believe it or not, even in JC-2 I feel I can see the right hand dangling by 249, and perhaps even before that (by comparing carefully with color 258). S Therefore, either 238 was a body-wrist hit (leaving min aside the thigh wound); or melse the back-hit came at 238, followed by a wrist-hit between then and 249.

I heard GeorgeHerman on CBS Gronkite news last week say from the Archives that:

- 1. the (four)missing frames were i not missing from the archives 8 mm. film (they were missing, with the splice lines showing, in the slides we saw there; and also from the 8 mm film I saw at Life) The Life film was a copy; the original was said to be in a safe)
- 2. the film and slides were viewable there on specialky equipment -- aside from the regular projection room. We were not aware of this when we were at the Archives.

Perhaps the next time down you 'll get a chance to check into the above, and also note the exact frame where his hand first appears to dangle. I want to reiterate that the shoulder-drop itself in demainsible was descirnable **distribution** in motion only in the 16 mm.; and then, only if you keep your eyes glued to his shoulder as soon as he emerges from behind the sign.

Best regards. Ray