

7 November 1970

Mr Richard Bernabei
Department of Classics
Queen's University
Kingston, Ontario

cc: Dr. Cyril H. Wecht

Dear Dick,

Thanks for your letters of the 2nd and 3rd as well as the copies of your letters to Dr. Wecht and Harold Weisberg. I am delighted that you sent copies of your third letter to Hoch to Dr. Wecht and to Tink Thompson, as I was unable to get near our office xerox machine all week and I expect that next week will be even more hectic.

The main question now is, as you say, to put our heads together and try to figure out how to get your head shot-ballistics findings before the public so as to get real impact and positive results. You have already taken the necessary first step of circulating your theory and conclusions among our qualified colleagues and I hope that Wecht, Thompson and others will send you their comments, questions, and objections (if any) so that you can clarify any ambiguities when you rewrite your case for the right front bullet entrance. I think that Shelley Braverman's opinion would be of great importance, since he is a recognised ballistics expert. I have not heard from him at all in about two years or so; his address, if you don't have it, is: Athens, New York 12015. (I enclose a story on Braverman that appeared in the New York Times on 10/27/69; please return it in due time, as it is my only copy.)

I hope and am inclined to agree with you that your theory will not prove vulnerable. Assuming that you receive support from Wecht, Thompson, Braverman, et al, it would have to be prepared as an article for a general audience (if that is what you contemplate), and then comes the really hard part—getting it published. While I was ill a couple of weeks ago, I got a phone-call from a man referred by Gary Schoener, who lives in Minnesota but has some important contacts in New York—the top editor of Newsweek, for example. This chap has become very immersed in a study of the stretcher bullet (he is not very authoritative on the assassination evidence as a whole) and during our conversation I suggested that he might ask Gary Schoener to let him read your third letter to Hoch, if Gary felt free to do so. Perhaps this chap (Ned Crosby) could be helpful in getting Newsweek and/or other publications interested in your findings. If it is, as it does appear to me to be, conclusive and irrefutable proof that the fatal shot entered at the front and right side of the head, perhaps even the New York Times might be jolted out of its complacency toward the WR and the Dallas assassination—who knows? I would be glad to ask Peter Kihss and Harrison Salisbury to examine your evidence.

You might send me your phone number when you write again, as I suspect that sooner or later we will have to talk personally about how to proceed rather than correspond. If you will put your case into a draft article, I will be glad to go over it and perhaps even do a redraft, if you wish, but I do think that you should be the sole author, since the work was yours alone in its substance. Let me know how you react to these various suggestions.

As ever,

Sylvia Neacher