

9 June 1969

Dear Dick,

(Bernabei)

This is just a hurried reply on CEs 567 and 569, since you suggest some urgency attaches to the information. My Subject Index cites the testimony relevant to "Bullets, Fragments in car" and under "Evidence, Chain of possession" lists the CEs involved. In case you don't have the Subject Index (which is now available again, per enclosed "Notice") or don't have it at hand, see CE 2011 (which "authenticates" the two fragments found in the front of the car). See also related CEs 2023 and 2044 on chain of possession.

Actually there is a very detailed account of the handling of the car, discovery of the fragments, etc., in CD 80 (unpublished document), which I have on microfilm from the Archives. It is two years or more since I read the microfilm; and I just don't have time to go to the library and re-examine it for the details you want. We have only one viewer and it is usually in use, so it may mean several trips and then considerable time to make notes, as we do not have print-out privileges except for official UN materials. CD 87(b) also covers the same subject (the car) and it may be on the same roll of microfilm, but I am not certain at this distance in time.

However, I do have an internal Commission memorandum of 2/18/64 which summarizes CDs 80 and 87(b). I am not at liberty to make this available. I obtained it on condition that I would not circulate it and thus jeopardize the work of the person who supplied it, who is concerned about having his research pre-empted, even inadvertently. But I think I can say, without violating my word, that this internal document indicates that shortly after the car arrived at the SS garage in Washington "Deputy Chief Paterni found a metallic fragment in the front seat and Chief Petty Officer (Thomas) Mills (of Admiral Burkley's office--S.M.) found a second metallic fragment on the floor in front of the right front seat, which fragments were turned over to the FBI and were later identified as Exhibits Q2 and Q3..."

About the wiping of the bullet CE 399 and/or the fragments: I am fully aware of the facts as set forth in the testimony, and always have been--See Accessories, page 173, para. 5. I assume that you do have Accessories. Harold has it and may have taken note of my comments on this point, but it would be safer to take it up with him explicitly.

I am always glad to help with any information not already covered in my published books and articles, or with information that is in my head and does not require time-consuming searches and reconstructions. Happily, the above information on CEs 567 and 569 did not require substantial search. I get inquiries of the same sort from various researchers, not infrequently, and the other day it took from 9:30 am to 5 pm (on Saturday) to locate requested material. I mention this so that you will not misunderstand as unwillingness to co-operate with other researchers any instance in which I am not able to be helpful--as, indeed, I believe has already occurred with respect to the eyewitness reports on the number of shots in the RFK assassination.

All the best,

Very hurriedly,