



QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY  
KINGSTON, ONTARIO

28 June 1968

Dear Mrs. Meagher:

Attached is correspondence that I sent to Sprague; it concerns the location of the Man in the Doorway of Altgens' photo. I am convinced that the Man is Oswald. Sprague gave me the photo by Weigman showing the TSB'd doorway at a time corresponding with Zapruder 280. The Man appears less clearly in Weigman than in Altgens, but the Weigman photo allows his position to be determined with considerable accuracy.

The location of the Man in the Doorway bears directly on my suspicion that the FBI doctored the Houghes film because it showed Oswald (or at least the color of his shirt) in the doorway when JFK made the turn from Houston onto Elm. I refer specifically to the color frame of Houghes that is printed in Life, 24 Nov. 1967; I am assured that other frames of Houghes show the same things as the one printed in Life.

I call this to your attention because in your researches you are likely to view certain pictures which will be able to settle my doubts. I list those pictures below in the hope that if you should ever get to see them, you will keep an eye out for the information that I desire.

In the Houghes picture a blue-shirted female figure is framed by the doorway of the TSB'd and obscures a view of the spot where the Man in the Doorway was standing. She is situated unusually high over the heads of those who are standing around her on the east side of Houston Street. Her mere presence in that spot raised my suspicions, for I was exceedingly interested to see a color photo of the doorway, and I had had my fill of "curious coincidences". However, I have more substantial grounds for suspicion than that.

I devoured that picture with my eyes until finally it occurred to me that if the blue-shirted figure were genuine, she must be standing on the high part of the concrete structure that encloses the wading pool at the southwest corner of Houston and Elm, directly behind the spot where Brennan was sitting (CE 277 is a good photo of the spot; if genuine, she was probably standing on the pillar behind Brennan). When I viewed color versions of early frames of the Zapruder film, my suspicion was heightened even further, for Brennan is clearly visible, but no one is standing ~~on the pillar behind Brennan~~ behind him on the wall. I don't consider that conclusive, however, since a portion of the wall may be obscured in Zapruder.

Another thing that bothers me is the change of clarity in the Houghes film. Josiah Thompson's chapter, "A Reconstruction", shows several frames of the Houghes film-- pictures of JFK on Main and on Houston. The pictures are unusually clear until the TSB'd comes into view, when suddenly they blur very badly. The curious thing about the blurring is that it has no focus, either near or far. If Houghes' camera were out of focus it would show near objects clearly and distant objects indistinctly, or it would show distant objects clearly and near objects indistinctly. As it is, however, it shows everything, near and far, out of focus-- it has no focus.

My suspicion, then, is that the FBI (Houghes turned over his movie to them very soon after the assassination) inserted the blue-shirted figure to cover up a picture of Oswald in the doorway, and then made successive reproductions of that part of the film (or blurred it by some other means) until it became so blurry that evidence of their doctoring is not apparent.

That may sound bizarre, but it is no less bizarre than the Report itself.

Note in my letter to Sprague that there is yet another figure in the Houghes film that I think was faked, the man standing against the west wall of the doorway behind the negro-- the place where Lovelady said he was standing.

These are the films that undoubtedly show the spectators on the west side of Houston at the time when JFK turned onto Elm:

Mark Bell  
Jack Martin  
Elsie Dorman

Other films may also show the area that interests me, but I am almost certain of those three.

Sprague said that the Bell film definitely shows the whole area and that Thompson has a copy of Bell. Months ago I wrote to Dan Gillis, a friend of mine at Haverford who gave Thompson some help. I outlined my suspicions about the Houghes film and asked him to find out if Thompson could settle the question for me. I did not realize at the time that Thompson had the Bell film, and I supposed that he simply had not had the opportunity to view any of the relevant pictures, for I have received no reply either from Gillis or from Thompson. This confuses me, for he could have settled my doubts easily.

Please do not go out of your way to pursue this question unless you think that I am right. I shall be satisfied if you merely keep it in mind and advise me if you ever have a chance easily to ascertain whether the blue-shirted figure in Houghes is genuine.

If the Houghes picture was faked, and if it can be proven by reference to other pictures, then it's a stick of dynamite stuck right in the mouth of the FBI.

Sincerely,

*Dick Bernabei*

Dick Bernabei

Bernabei-- Classics  
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY  
DEPT. 3311  
KINGSTON, ONTARIO

Mrs. Sylvia Meagher  
302 West 12th Street  
New York, N.Y. 10014  
USA



ALBANY NY  
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U. S. ARMY RESERVE  
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