The Ammunition Clip

The rapidity of the shots from the Carcano would have been enhanced if it had an ammunition chip or "charger" attached to feed bullets automatically, without need for reloading until seven shots were fired.

No reports concerning the rifle—its identity or description—issued on the day of the assassination or immediately thereafter suggest that the alleged murder rifle was equipped with an ammunition clip. Seymour Weitzman in his affidavit does not mention a clip, although he does give specifications for the telescopic sight and other features. Captain Fritz is reported as having discharged one live round from the rifle's chamber. Nothing is said about other rounds of ammunition found, nor about the presence of a clip.

If the assassin had such a clip, and if he loaded the maximum ammunition (six in the clip and one in the chamber) as would seem likely, in case the first shots missed, and if he fired three shots only, then four live bullets should have been found by Captain Fritz rather than one.

The detailed description of the rifle in Chapter III includes the markings, the telescopic sight, and the sling but does not indicate the presence of a clip. The section in Chapter IV on Oswald's rifle capability does not indicate whether or not the experiments with the alleged murder rifle were conducted with an ammunition clip. The report makes no specific claim that the rapidity of the shots was facilitated by such a clip.

However, in Appendix X (Expert Testimony) the claim is made that when the rifle was found it contained a clip with manufacturer's marking and code number.

If that is so, it is singular that the Commission did not mention the presence of the clip as support for its conclusion that Oswald had the capability required by the rapidity of the shots, and that the Commission did not conduct or report on any investigation to trace the purchase of said clip to Oswald, since no clip was included in the mail order purchase of the Carcano.