

21 June 1968

Mr. Shelley Braverman
Athens, New York 12015

Dear Shelley,

It seems that I really started something! I feel a little guilty to learn that my inquiry about the "Hydrosol" has caused you to order the Hearings and Exhibits, which are quite costly. Also, I am not sure that you can still get them, as someone mentioned to me just the other day that the 26 volumes are out of print.

I have read almost every article and book ever published on the Warren Report, but would concede immediately that I could very well have overlooked a reference to the bullet being cleaned with Hydrosol despite a particular interest in and attention to any information bearing on this point. What is so curious is that all the other researchers and critics, who also took special interest in the bullet because of its pivotal evidenciary significance, have seemingly missed it too.

Let me confirm that O.P. Wright was not a witness before the Warren Commission. The only published information from him is a memorandum to his superiors at Parkland Hospital reporting on his activities on the day of the assassination, which is found in the Price Exhibits in Volume XXI. Curiously, Wright makes no mention whatever of the stretcher bullet in his report, although he devotes part of it to a careful account of how he took the President's wristwatch into custody and how he handled it. It is indicative of the kind of investigation conducted by the Warren Commission that no testimony was taken from Wright (although he was interviewed by the FBI on the single narrow question of the chain of possession of the bullet, in Exhibit No. 2011, if my memory is correct--he was shown the stretcher bullet but could not identify it as the same bullet he placed into the custody of Secret Service agent Richard Johnsen, nor could any of the others identify it, as indicated in ACCESSORIES, page 176). Although Wright was undoubtedly interviewed by the Secret Service and/or the FBI, their reports of some 30 or more interviews with hospital personnel have been suppressed and are presumably among the classified documents in the Archives. Incidentally, J.D. Thompson in his book SIX SECONDS IN DALLAS turned up the provocative information that Wright's recollection of the bullet he turned over to the Secret Service did NOT correspond with the stretcher bullet but resembled a sharp-nosed bullet, as pictured on page 175 of Thompson's book.

If this is not enough, there is the additional curious report by Mrs. Elizabeth Wright, the chief of nursing at Parkland Hospital, on her activities on the day of the assassination, also published in the Price Exhibits, Volume XXI. Mrs. Wright says in her report that in the early evening she was approached by O.P. Wright (presumably no relation), who wanted to know whether the doctors had recovered any bullets or bullet fragments from Governor Connally during surgery. She does not suggest that O.P. Wright or anyone else had earlier found a bullet on or near a stretcher. Perhaps O.P. Wright did not mention that to Mrs. Wright because he took it for granted that the bullet he had turned over to the Secret Service had come from the President's body. But even so, it does not explain why in his detailed report of his activities O.P. Wright made no mention of that bullet.

I did not cover these strange aspects of the evidence in my book ACCESSORIES for simple lack of space, which compelled the sacrifice of numerous other oddities and discrepancies.

I have arranged for several copies of The Minority of One to be mailed to you (the June issue, the July/August issue, in both of which I have articles on the assassination, and an earlier issue containing a review of ACCESSORIES by Conor Cruise O'Brien).

Thank you for the material which was enclosed with your letter. I will read it with interest the moment I get a chance. Probably I'll call you within the next week.

By the way, when you phoned last Sunday I had a guest, Richard Bernabei, of Kingston, Ontario, who had written to me several times about the case but whom I had not previously met. After we hung up, he was excited to learn that I had been talking to Shelley Braverman, the weapons expert, and chagrined that he had not realized who was on the phone in time to talk to you himself. He apparently considers himself a weapons expert, too, and explained to me in very great detail his hypothesis about the trajectory of any shots fired from the Carcano rifle and his conclusion that it would have been impossible for anyone shooting it from the sixth floor window to hit the car or anyone in it. He will be getting in touch with you, if he has not already done so, but please don't consider that it is on my recommendation. It was his own idea, and I don't know him well enough to vouch for him one way or the other. He seems to be a serious and responsible person, but then, so does Warren.

Best regards,

Yours sincerely,

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