

11 June 1968

Mr. Shelley Braverman
Athens, New York 12015

Dear Mr. Braverman,

A review copy of my book will be sent to you by my publishers in the next few days; meanwhile, I am enclosing a few reviews which may interest you.

After our conversation yesterday, I went back to Frazier's testimony and rechecked Cunningham's and Nicol's as well, without finding any reference to Hydrosol or to the cleaning of the stretcher bullet at any time. The bullet had been discovered in Parkland Hospital by Darrell C. Tomlinson, maintenance man, and turned over to O.P. Wright, the hospital Personnel Officer. Wright in turn gave the bullet to Secret Service agent Richard E. Johnsen of the White House detail, who returned to Washington bearing the bullet on Air Force One, which departed Dallas at 2:47 p.m. It seems that there was no examination or cleaning of this bullet in Dallas but that it was merely handed over and taken to Washington, where the Secret Service then placed it into the possession of the FBI.

Frazier testified (Volume IV page 428 ff.) that the bullet was delivered to him on November 22, 1963 (the day of the assassination) in the FBI laboratory by FBI agent Elmer Todd. Asked if he had prepared the bullet in any way for examination, if he had cleaned it or in any way altered it, Frazier replied: "No, sir; it was not necessary. The bullet was clean and it was not necessary to change it in any way." Later in the same testimony (page 437) he was asked the same question with respect to the two large bullet fragments found in the Presidential car, and he replied: "No, sir; there was a very slight residue of blood or some other material adhering, but it did not interfere with the examination. It was wiped off to clean up the bullet (sic) for examination, but it actually would not have been necessary." The examining counsel, Melvin A. Eisenberg, then said, falsely, "You also mentioned there was blood or some other substance on the bullet marked 399. Is this an off-hand determination, or was there a test to determine what the substance was?" To this, Frazier replied: "No, there was no test made of the materials." He did not deny, as he should have, the statement attributed to him by Eisenberg; but he did reiterate that he did not test (or, presumably, clean) the (non-visible) materials.

Since this is a point of considerable importance, and if it is not too much trouble, I hope that you will be able to locate the exact source of your statement (GUNS, May 1967, page 20, column 2) that "before this bullet arrived at the FBI Laboratory, 'it was washed with Hydrosol, a blood solvent;' thus eliminating any possible attempt at blood tests or groupings..." etc.

It was enlightening as well as enjoyable to talk to you and I hope that we will be able to meet before long, here in New York or at Athens.

Yours very sincerely,

Sylvia Meagher
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