

Tuesday 25 May 1965

Dear Mrs. Castellano,

Thank you for your letter of 21 May and the supplementary information on the Zapruder frames. I shall re-examine the Life photograph with a magnifying glass at the first opportunity. Meanwhile, I'll just make a few comments on Connally. I agree that in the Zapruder film he is never shown to be turned to his left. My impression from his testimony was that he had turned to the right in an effort to see Kennedy after hearing the first shot; then turned from the right to the front with the intention of turning to the left, and that it was at that point, having perhaps begun to turn or before his intention was actually translated into physical movement, that he felt a bullet strike him. On that basis, it would seem to me that the bullet could have come from the grassy knoll to the right of the car.

If Connally was prepared to misrepresent the facts in order to accomodate the Warren Commission, he certainly did not misrepresent them sufficiently, and he managed to create a difficulty that was really insuperable----so much so that the Commission speciously and hypocritically pretended that it was not essential to its case whether Connally was hit by the same bullet as Kennedy or by a differant one. It is, in fact, absolutely essential to the official theory that Connally should have been hit by the same bullet for if he was not, it means that Oswald scored three out of three hits, which was clearly beyond his skill even as broadly interpreted by the Warren Commission; or he got three hits out of a higher number of shots, which was impossible in the time span of 5.5 seconds for Oswald or any other single sniper--ergo, more than one assassin.

Nevertheless, Connally insists that he was hit by a different bullet, as does his wife, and there are three or four spectators who said that they saw him hit after the President. One of the confusing factors is that Connally turned to his right more than once. It is my impression that he turned to the right when they were still behind the sign, when the shape of Mrs. Kennedy's hat above the top of the sign suggests that she too had turned to look at her husband after the sound of the first shot. I forget my process of reasoning but at one time I had laboriously reached the conclusion that Connally was shot at about frame 228--not by the same bullet that hit the President in the neck and after the lapse of perhaps 24 frames or less, while something like 40 frames must intervene between any two shots from the same weapon (if the weapon is the Carcano).

I agree with you that Connally's right hand had to be on his left leg for the wounds to be inflicted as they were; and that strengthens the impression that he was about to turn to his left when he was shot, for that would be a natural position for him to assume at that point. I also accept the probability that one bullet made all of Connally's wounds but not the stretcher bullet, which was virtually intact, undeformed, and clean (no blood or tissue). I do not accept the notion that a bullet made three entrance wounds and two exit wounds, smashing bones in its path, and emerged in that condition. Moreover, careful study of the testimony of the nurses, orderly and engineer at Parkland Hospital makes it very difficult to believe that this or any bullet was accidentally wedged and then dislodged from the stretcher, without the help of any human agency. I believe that this is one of the circumstances that reeks of falsification of evidence by unknown hands, for the purpose of incriminating Oswald--by planting the bullet in the first instance or by later substitution of a bullet fired from the Carcano.

Another discrepancy is Specter's statement to one of the expert witnesses that the trajectory of the President's neck wound was 45° , according to the autopsy surgeon, while the Report says it is about 17° and while Humes' testimony suggests it is even less. This no doubt is intimately related to the moving of the road signs.

I shall look forward to hearing any further developments on the disappearing sewer and related phenomena. Kindest regards, Sincerely yours,