

9 February 1966

Dear Maggie,

Many thanks for sending me the Connally frames and analysis. As you know from my notes on visit to Archives, the Connally shot is one of the most perplexing elements and I was disappointed to find little illumination in the color slides. Lillian Castellano told me recently that Vincent Salandria has reverted to his theory (as I understand it) that Gov. C. was struck in the 290s frames. That is entirely beyond my comprehension because, as your presentation shows, he is definitely and incontrovertibly showing pain and physical reaction at about frame 244. (Salandria apparently is publishing an article embodying his weird theory in a forthcoming MINORITY OF ONE.)

Certain conclusions about the Gov C shot seem to me incontrovertible:

1. He was not hit simultaneously with JFK since there is no objective indication of wounding and I refuse to believe the invention of a so-called delayed reaction which was not only not supported by medical witnesses but clearly questioned or denied by them. The delayed reaction suggestion has absolutely no merit other than to rescue the WC from desperation.
2. He was in position for the kind of simultaneous hit they claim in frame 225 area of the Zapruder, but his right hand is not visible in that frame. His general posture in 225 seems to me to eliminate the possibility that his right hand was on his left leg, in position for a bullet to penetrate the wrist and enter the thigh. Such placement of the right hand would have to pull his right shoulder considerably forward from its apparent position in 225.
3. Both the delayed-reaction and the position of the unseen right hand testify against the official thesis of a simultaneous hit, and a third strong obstacle is the emergence and "normalcy" of the right hand, frames 230 to 242 (approximately). If the wrist was struck by a bullet while invisible to the camera, he could not have elevated the hand and rested it on the top of the door as he did--there would be blood as well as damage to nerve and bone.
4. There is a strong case for postulating a shot that hits Gov C in the back in about frame 238, and I agree with the conclusion that such a shot could not have come from the Carcano if the Carcano previously hit JFK in the neck, for the stated reason (42 frames between two shots from Carcano). However, a hit at frame 238 leaves some questions unanswered:
  - (a) Since the right wrist is not aligned with the exit wound in the chest near right nipple, when was the right hit, by what, and where did the bullet go?
  - (b) The bullet followed a right-to-left path of  $25^{\circ}$ , also a downward trajectory of  $25^{\circ}$ . If the line is projected backward from Gov C's back, would it intersect the Depository window--or a different window in that building--or a location other than the Depository? This I do not argue one way or the other, but a qualified opinion would be important, as a further support of the argument for a hit in frame 238.

Let me be clear—I don't believe for a minute that you or I or any of us are obliged to answer such questions as (a) or (b). We can only examine the evidence for and against the official findings and demonstrate that they are grossly incorrect. Your presentation is very effective in that respect. Over and above that, it does make a strong case for a hit at 238.

My questions are really between you and me, not questions directed to the presentation as such. The undeniable fact is that there is a lapse of only 19 frames between the visible reaction of JFK and the visible reaction of Gov C, whereas the latter's wounds were far more impactful and literally bloody and he should have reacted first if there was a simultaneous hit; and, since 42 frames are required between two Carcano shots, Gov C was hit by a separate bullet, from the right rear at a higher elevation than the car. However, that does not necessarily mean that JFK was hit in the neck from the same or from a similar location.

Very little news since we spoke last. I am working on some marginal elements in the case. Do you have any thoughts on Winkline and Oran Pugh of U S Customs? I am feeling very dull so I won't try to continue. O, yes, one thing—I spoke to your cousin Hannah last week, she called me about a radio discussion that turned out to be nothing much (usual psychological claptrap about LHO being fatherless, resentment of authority, and similar orthodoxy).

Please let me hear from you more often, I miss your letters.

With love,