

Telephone Conversation with Dave Lipton, Saturday night 30 October 1965

Dave telephoned at about 10 pm and we talked until 11.45. He called to ask if I had heard from Maggie Field recently and if I knew what was going on in Paris. He had received cables from Maggie and from Buchanan asking him to send various materials to Paris; and a letter from Buchanan, saying that he did not wish to be specific because he did not trust the US Mail but there was a prospect of putting Dave's material "before the widest possible audience."

Dave proceeded to say that he had talked for 2-1/2 hours recently to Wesley Liebeler, who is now in California. Dave told Liebeler outright that the WR was a "complete hoax" and the the "jugular was the autopsy evidence." He said that he had to choose between believing the WR or believing everything he had ever learned about mathematics and physics. He showed Liebeler the treatment of the 313 shot which snapped the head back and to the left. Liebeler said in seeming surprise that "he had never noticed that before," to which Dave replied, "you've got to be putting me on." Liebeler's reaction was generally ambiguous; at times he used rude language ("that's a bale of shit") in referring to certain parts of the official case, and seemed to be almost agreeing with Lipton. At other times he seemed offended and asked if Lipton was accusing him and the other lawyers of dishonesty, or stupidity. He did not agree with the third possibility suggested by Lipton--that the WC had been deceived and misled by their investigative agencies (FBI).

When Dave referred to the Sunday meeting in New York at one point, Liebeler asked pointedly "Are you sure it was last week?" (Dave actually had been mistaken about the date of the meeting) and Dave is certain, from that question, that Liebeler knew about the meeting in advance.

Dave then discussed in great detail the work he had done on the Moorman picture and the various generations of negatives. A photographic expert had told him that the photo had been in a "hot bath"--ie, a technique to doctor a photograph by "fuzzing". He spoke recently to Featherstone, who had appropriated the picture from Mary Moorman, but I am not clear as to what Featherstone told Dave. Dave is certain that the photo was doctored --probably by someone high-up in the Times-Herald, on instructions from LBJ, before it was ever released, so as to conceal the betraying details on the original. One of the copies has mysteriously disappeared from the files of a publisher (Four Days??) (Four Dark Days??). Dave believes that there was a massive camouflage-and-guerilla operation, involving perhaps 100 men, and that the assassination was a "high Texas" and "Army-military" attempted coup, and that LBJ was forced to cover it up, because if the high Texans were exposed, no one would believe that LBJ was not involved, even if he really was not.

He believes that the trees on the grassy knoll were camouflage; men were concealed in capsules; they may have remained there until dark and then made their escape. He believes there was a trench in front of the concrete structure, with phoney hedges; and a trench also on the other side of Elm Street, where gray and black shadows and swatches appear on the Zapruders without any natural explanation.

He has obtained a photograph of the Moorman scene as it is now, and it proves that the trees in the original must have been false--they are completely inconsistent with the tree branches as they are now, and the differences cannot be attributed to trimming or other innocent changes. He says that when he showed Liebler the streaks on the back of the sign Liebler recognized and admitted that the streaks were bullet marks--but said that they could have been from one of Oswald's bullets!

Dave thinks that the puff of smoke is not rifle smoke but I am not certain what he thinks it is, although I did ask him. I asked him also if it is possible that the elaborate engineering job (which he thinks was in progress for several days before 11/22/63) and the ~~man~~ camouflage-and-guerillas could have ~~man~~ escaped penetration by all of the numerous witnesses who were present. He replied that the camouflage WAS penetrated, probably by the 20 or 25 witnesses who were standing right near Jean Hill and Mary Moorman. He, Ray Marcus, and Lillian Castellano (?) have reconstructed the plat (CE 878), 100' in size, locating each witness and each photographer (Willis, Altgens, Zapruder, Nix, Muchmore, etc) working out the position at each Zapruder frame, with a replica of the car built out of cardboard by Ray Marcus. They determined in the course of this reconstruction that none of the 20 or 25 witnesses near Hill/Moorman was even questioned by the police, sheriff's office, FBI or Secret Service--so far as the exhibits show--much less called by the WC. He believes that the reason for this is that they all saw what was really going on on the grassy knoll; and that they are maintaining silence for the same reason that no one helped Kitty Genovese when she was being murdered under the eyes of many witnesses.

A specific person who definitely penetrated the camouflage, according to Dave, is Marilyn Sitzman, Zapruder's secretary, who told a sheriff's man that the shots came from the TSBD. Dave is certain that the guerillas were right behind Sitzman and probably spoke to her, warning her to say nothing or she would be killed--otherwise, how account for her saying that the shots came from the TSBD, while all the others including Zapruder thought the shots came from the grassy knoll area???? NB: Reference to Marilyn Sitzman appears in Decker Exhibit 5323, page 535, report of Deputy Sheriff John Wiseman. Sitzman now has unlisted telephone.

Dave said that he was aware that I had told Maggie Field that while the finding of the man behind the concrete structure (near puff of smoke) was a real breakthrough, talk of men in trees and helicopters, etc. was very unfortunate; that is why he wanted to call to show me that he was "not far out and not a kook."

He has had long-standing contacts with Jones Harris, of whom he takes a dim view. He feels Harris pumped him and after getting a great deal of information, went to Dallas without even telling Dave and was secretive about what he had found out there. Dave resents the fact that Harris, though a millionaire, called him collect once and talked for an hour; and it was very tricky to get Harris to pay for the call or for the photographs he asked from Dave, although he finally did pay.