

1249 Hi Point St.
L. A. Calif. 90035
~~Feb 4, 1966~~

Feb

Dear Vince,

Ramparts had contacted us here, also. They act like they really intend to start a campaign, but I'll believe it when I see it in print. I'm afraid this case has made me more cynical than I once was.

I heard from Lillian and Dave that your 292 piece is going to appear soon in TMO. But since I, like they, am certain you are wrong, I'm sorry to hear it. You're far too important a critic to have something appear which I'm convinced will not stand scientific examination.

I know you're equally convinced that you are right, but I had hoped that since by your own statement the other critics you have shown it to are in unanimous disagreement, you would refrain from publishing it, for the time being at least.

What particularly puzzles me is that while you obviously haven't been swayed by our arguments, you have not really answered them. Nevertheless, I feel I should give it one last unsolicited try, and so this letter. It would be repetitious and pointless to restate the criticisms in detail, but I do want to stress two points.

First, you have cited the ear witness testimony in support of 292 (and also against 238). I believe you based this on a three shot, Bang Bang Bang, pattern, with the last two coming at 292 and 313; pointing out to Dave that there was a silent period at 238.

What basis is there for relying on that particular pattern rather than others? You told me you now accept that JFK was hit prior to 193. Certainly he was hit again ~~again~~ at approx. 227. (the reaction in 227-230 where his elbows are flung forward and up, obviously are the result of an impact -- and not a delayed reaction). Indications are that these two hits caused the throat and back wounds respectively. The documentation in your Liberation article points to more than one shot to the head. At least one hit centrally. The Main St. curb shot. The Elm St. manhole cover shot, (center). Probably more than one in the Elm Street roadway itself, (Mrs. Baker, Jean Hill, Skelton, Decker). That makes six shots for which there is strong evidence, and indications of several more.

In view of this, I just don't see how the three-shot pattern-- or any of the numerous other ear-witness patterns -- can be cited to support or refute hits at particular frames.

The second point is, the frames show Connally reclining in frame 292 in a fashion that would have made it impossible for him to have been hit in the back at that time from anywhere ~~far~~ outside the car.

After he completes his 'sagging' turn to the right (color fr. 258), he ends up facing to the left rear. He straightens up somewhat (fr. 277; Life color panel 35, Memorial Issue); Mrs. Connally faces towards him (281) and he reclines towards her, his head sinking steadily lower in the car. By 292, while still facing toward the left rear, his head barely shows above the side of the car, and appears even lower than JFK's. At this point a bullet piercing his body producing the wounds sustained would have had to come from the floor of the car going through his wife enroute. Therefore, I can't understand how 292 can be sustained as the Connally shot.

I believe the proposition that he was hit before he reclines is proven conclusively by the frames themselves and requires no further support. But I note also that it fits closely with what Gov. and Mrs. Connally said:

Gov. Connally: " . . . that I had probably been fatally hit. So I merely doubled up . . . turned to my right again and . . . just sat there, and Mrs. Connally pulled me over to her lap . . . so I reclined with my head in her lap . . . "

Mrs. Connally: " . . . he recoiled to the right . . . he turned away from me . . . and slumped down into the seat . . . I just pulled him over into my arms . . . "

While my main concern here is dissuading you from having 292 published, I hope you will take another look at 238, in view of the panel JC-2, and the enlargement of JC-1 (I made just two of the JC-1 panels, and am sending one to you because I feel it's size greatly helps illustrate the point).

As well as the 238 Connally shot covered in the accompanying notes, JC-2 shows more clearly some movements by JFK from 240 on that caused me to raise in my Hyp. F the possibility of a tangential JFK ~~hit~~ head-strike at 247-248. I'm not at all sure the observed movements are the result of a shot at that point, but I think ~~they~~ they're worth noting.

From 240-246 JFK turns his head slightly to his left. (in 240 the shadow-line extending down the side of his face from his ~~hair~~ hairline is in front of his ear; as he turns left, the shadow intersects the ear (242-246); from 248 on, where his head is pitched instantly back to the center and slightly down, the shadow is again in front of the ear.

Also, from 248 on, the following occurs:

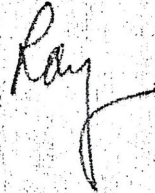
1. his right arm, which had moved very little from 228 through 247, drops markedly. (his left arm is being held by Mrs. JFK).
2. a cow-lick of hair rises at the rear, top of his head (most noticeable at 249 and 253), finally subsiding by 255.

3. soon after (about 260) he starts sinking steadily lower in the car.

I realize this may all add up to nothing more than a spasmodic jerking-motion, resulting from a earlier shot; but to me, the sudden reversal of his leftward turn seems significant.

I would appreciate your comments re the Connally shot, and promise to bug you no more with it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ray", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.