

12/12/66

Dear Ray,

It seems absurd that I should have been unable to get FACT in New York. Many thanks for your kindness in sending it to me. Most of it was utterly infuriating but it did restore somewhat my original good impression of Kerry Thornley. Have you and Maggie seen the enclosed article? It appeared in the first issue of a new Catholic (conservative) magazine, Triumph; and Brown has written a book on the assassination which is to be published in 1967 by Arlington House. It is a pretty sad day when the "liberal" magazines like The Reporter publish crap by Arthur Goodhart; and we get a relatively decent article like Brown's, from the right or far right. I begin to feel like Alice in Crazyland...

Now, to your find in the Esquire-Nix photo: It is a stunner. I can make out a figure, now that I know where to look; I even think I can see the two hands. I wish you were here to help me interpret it (there are such large white blobs on the glossy print). If the figure is holding a rifle, he has only 1/3 of a second to raise or lower it, aim, and fire. Or isn't he the one who fired the 313 shot? If it is a man, and a weapon, I marvel that he (they) could station himself so close to Zapruder and his secretary--am I correct in thinking that I see them standing there on the ledge? Of course, if I did not know they were standing there, I would never believe those blobs were two human beings--which makes your man, and the man behind the station-wagon, all the more believable.

Ray, what will you do with these photos? Do you feel certain? Your reasoning seems impeccable. I will not mention this to anyone, unless you wish me to mention and/or show the material. I think you should consider Kern...I agree with you that he is trying to overcome his built-in pro-Establishmentarianism; and Thompson, if he ever had the struggle, has overcome it, I think. I had a good impression of both Kern and Thompson--so far, so good, but I am resigned to the always-present possibility of disappointment. Especially where Life is concerned.

The editor of Frontier sent me a nasty short note--"A miracle is emerging. On one side are people of the highest moral purpose, courage and intelligence ...On the other side, led by the Chief Justice, are the most stupid, cowardly, dishonest group..." etc. etc. I wrote back cheerfully, saying that those who were unable to answer the factual charges had to fall back on sneer and sarcasm; and that if he ~~man~~ ever takes the trouble to examine the evidence impartially and objectively, he would realize that his statement was nothing but the literal truth. But one should not even waste time with such fretful dwarfs...

To answer your two questions: (1) Frazier testifies (5H 61) that the hole or ragged slit "is oriented vertically, and the fibers of the cloth are protruding outward, that is, have been pushed from the inside out...I could not actually determine... whether or not it was caused by a bullet...it was caused by a projectile of some type which exited from the shirt at that point and that is again assuming that when I first examined the shirt it was--it had not been altered from the condition it was in at the time the hole was made." Interesting way of putting it, isn't it??? (2) No, there is no list or register indicating the full roster of boarders at North Beckley. I was discussing this only a few days ago, perhaps with Maggie. In closing--what do you think about Ruby? It was predictable--perhaps, inevitable. I don't know why I am surprised. Much love,