5809 East Rosewood St., Tucson, Arizona. November 6,1969.

Dr. D. Cyril Wecht,M.D.,LL.B., Duquesne University School of Law, Pittsburgh, Pa.

I have no part in the field of medicine but I have Dear Dr. Weche: studied the Warren Report on the assassination of President Kennedy together with the Hearings and Documents and most of the books written about the Report. I can but agree, in general, with your criticism of the autopsy and the report thereon. Captain Humes doubtless did things in the Navy Way and, as they say in the navy:"There are three ways to do a fob: the right way, the wrong way and the Navy way." Like you, I do not know why the best available civilian staff was not assembled to do the autopsy. Nor do I know why the body was not left in Dallas until the autopsy was completed nor why Pressidential Assistant Kenneth O'Donnel and the Secret Service men took such a high handed attitude and actually "high-jacked" the body away from the Parkland Hospital and out of the state in violation of the laws of Texas. Was it their purpose tog get the body to Bethesda where it would be in the hands of military officers who would act under orders? There seems to be no doubt that Humes did act under orders. What were those orders and why were they I think the world has never seen a more massive "cover-up" than given? in this case, not the wWestern world at any rate.

85711

In spite of my having no part in the fieldof medicing or of law, there are certain aspects of the wounds that do enter into my field of competence. I refer to the angles of the wounds in both the vertical and the horizontal planes, the nature of the projectile the shoulder-throat wound and the location of the entry wound.

You mention histological slides which "would be a sure sign" that the back woundwas one of entry as was the small woundin the back of the head. So far 'as the back wound' is concerned, there is another proof that it was a woundof entry and that it could only have been at approximately the point where the Autopsy Report places it. I refer to the President's coat and shirt and the bullet holes therein as shown in the photographs,FBI Exhibits 59 and 60. These bullet holes have been treated as just common, run of the mill bullet holes where the bullet enters in a line more or less perpendicular to the body struck. But this was by no means the case. A look at the inset in Exhibit 59 shows that the bullet hole is pointed like a pointed nosed bullet and that the hole points upward and to ehe left at an angle of 60 degrees or more Since the coat was on the President's back and he was seated in an automobile moving along a public street, there could have been no way in which a bullet could have been fired from a rifle so that it could have made the hole nor even travelled upward, for that matter. Had a bullet been fired in this manner, it must have made exit near the President's left shoulder. And there is no point from which a bullet could have been fired downward at such an angle even if the bullet had not pointed upward. A little study reveals that the only way in which this hole couldhave been made was to have had the coat twisted around and up to the right so that the hole would be approximately over the spot where the shoulder entry wound was located in the Autopsy Report. The hole is in the shape of a pointed bullet nose with a bit of the paralle! sides. To make such a hole in the cloth, the bullet would have had to

enter the cloth at a very small angle thereto. As the angle to the cloth is increased, the shape and size of the hole change until when the angle reaches the perpendicular to the cloth or near it the hole becmes appaoximately round and approximately the diameter of the bullet. Twist coat and hole around until the hole is approximately over the shoulder wound and it will be seen that the point of the bullet hole, and thus of the bullet, is toward the body and that the centerline of the bullet, if extended, would go toward the right at a wide angle. Thus Exhibit 59 of the FBI agrees with the Autopsy Report as to the back wound.

The bullet hole in the shirt is also sharply pointed and lies squarely across one of the vertical stripes of the shirt. This again could have heppened only if the shirt had been twisted around and up so that the hole lay under the hole in the coat. No "folding" of the shirt would have been necessary, only crumpling. There is, in the volume Four Days, I believe, compiled by United Press International, which shows the President in the car somewhere along the route with his coat in precisely yhis position.

The head woundwas inflicted by by a bullet fired from about the same point as that inflicting the shoulder wound. This point was about 4 degrees over the President's head and about 4 degrees to the right of the extended centerline of the President's head. The vertical angle of 4 degrees is about the maximum at which the bullet could have entered and made exit before reaching the frontal bone. The bullet was travelling from the right to the left at an angle to the center line of about 4 degrees. It struck the head at a point one (1) inch to the right of and a little above the occipital protuberance. That is, it struck to the right of the center of resistance of the head which would be to the rear of thee centerline of the neckThe head is a partially movable body and will tend to react to a push or a blow as a free body would but it can do this only for an instant. AAs in the case of a pool ball, the head, if it had been free, would have moved off at an angle to the line of impact. But, as an appendage, its freedom of movement was strictly limited. It was, however, because the line of the bullet was off the center of resistance, affected by a force in two directione. A force applied in this manner has two components as explained in in a highschool or freshman college course in physics. Thus the movement of the head would have been as though it had been struck by two forces at right angles to eachother. Since the head was not free, it tried to move in two directions at once . Its movement was first toward the front , the direction of the major component of the force. It then had to snap back and move toward the back of the car, at right angles to the first movement. Thus only one bullet was required to cause the double m motion. The psinciple involved here is the the m same as that in directing pool balls at various angles. The difference is that the pool ball is free to move in any direction and distance while the head has only a limited movement in any direction and cannot move in a resultant direction as the pool ball does.

A bullet fired from the right front and striking the head on the right side might have its entry wound concealed by the wound made by the bullet from the right rear but such a bullet must have had an exit wound in the head and a mark of somekind on the back of the car since the bullet would have been travelling downward at an angle of about 12 degrees. There was no such bullet mark on the back of the rear seat of the car. It seems certain that there was no effective cress fire.

The skin and flesh of the throat are rather flabby at

best and thus quite different in this respect from any other area of the human body. One might expect the visual aspects of a wound in the area to be quite different from a wound in other areas where the flesh is firm and elastic. Gun shot wounds in the throat are not common and it would seem likely that Dr. Perry had never seen one before. And while Dr. Perry was messing wround with the throat wound ,he might well have washed off such small traces of metal as might have been on the cloth o the shirt by means of blood and other throat fluids. How he thought he i could do anything for the man who had around15 percent of his brain sho away, much of it in the vital middle brain, is beyond me. No doubt it is traditional, however useless, to try to keep the spark of life as long as possible, even when there is obviously no hope.

You say that Secret Service Agents Kellerman, Greer and Hil agreed with Sibert and O'Neil of the FBI as to the location of the shoulder wound. I believe, however, that if you will check you will find that Greer, driver of the car, said the wound was "in the soft part of the shoulder," while Kellerman said: "Right under that big muscle between the neck and shoulder." Hill said "Obout six inches down from the neck line." If he had explained what the "neck line" is I might know what he meant. He probably meant the line between head andneck which is the nearest thing there is to a **XXMM** "neck line" on the human body. If that is what he meant, then he agreed substantially with Sibert and U_Neil. No doubt the FBI boys were active in framing a case though they may have taken their dimensions from the coat and not from the body itself. In any case, they were wrong, just as wrong as that FBI characyer who said the back wound was at a downward angle of 45 to 60 degrees. This last is impossible simply because there is no spot from which the bullet inflicting the woundcould have been fired downward at that angl

It looks to me as though ,to judge by the Zapruder film frames published in LIFE which I have,Gov. Connally was hit by Frame 23 or,I should say,234. The shot was undoubtedly fired from the seventh floor window immediately above the sixth floor window assumed. In this spats it is the neglected spots where things happened. That milling owround with guns on the sixth floor was meant to confuse as was the rifle,the telescopic sight ,cartridge cases and what not found there. The "cover-up" on this job was probably the most massive

in history and there was reason to believe that it was set in mption by Sheriff Decker someminutes before the first shot was fired. The Commission tried to explain but did not quite succeed. In any case,virtually the wholeof the "Establishment" was involved in the cover operation. I do not know who shot Kennedy but I do knowbeyond any shadow of doubt that Oswald did not. The proof is a matter of simple, elementary mathematics and cannot honestly be denied.

And ,of course, those two pieces of junk, the so-called Oswald rifle and telescopic sight were never used. Only an imbecile would have tried to hit anything with them. Connally's clothing were taken away and cleaned , contrary to all rules in such matters and those who did it, p Cliff Carter, it seems, were guilty of the crima of tampering with or destroying evidence. Carter submitted a statement but was not questioned by the Commission. He probably removed, or caused to be removed, the bullets or fragments that struck Connally. The bukket fragments said to have been in the car and from the Oswald rifle may have been from that rifle and may have been in the car but that it is not to say how nor when they got there. The limousine was left unguarded in Dallas and anybody could have planted a young calf in it if he had want ed to do so. The Secret Service neither protected Kennedy, his remains nor the evidence. Chief Curry of the Dallas police said in one connection that they had "violated every rule of police proceedure." And he co minimize that of the entire caese and said it again and again until Kingdom Come. In terms of honest investigation, the KeystoneKops w were a fine, well organized body of policex by comparison.

Josiah Thompson's SIX SECONDS IN DALLAS shows a line drawing of a head with dashed line for the path of the bullet and another dashed line showing the path of the fragment of bullet or bone supposed to have made exit through the throat wound. What makes this an impossibility is that thehead is erecyland yet the fragment makes exit at a small angle and clears the chest by only a small margin. The fragment should have been on the floor of the limousine but if so it was never reported. The fact is that Mr. Kennedy's head was far from erect. as showb by Zapruder frame 312. His whole body was twisted and canted to the left and forward while the head was bowed toward the chest by about 30 degrees. The entire upper portion of the body was crumpled forward as one might expect. A bullet fragment or bone fragment travelling in the path shown on the Thompson drawing could not have been expected to exit from the throat and, if by any chance it had done so, it must have at once have reentered the flesh of the chest or abdomen and again penetrated the shirt. There were no other holes in the shirt or undershirt and no wounds in the chest or abdomen. Thus one must conclude that the **x** throat woundwas not made by a fragment from the head but was the exit would of the bullet which entered through the "soft part of the shoulder" and "right under that big muscle."

I am a professional engineer, now inactive, but having had resgistrations in Pennsylvania and California. My experience with rifles and other firearms has been lifelong though not quite intensive. I was a "crack shot" with a 22 rifle at the age of about 12. I becema familiar with the U.S.Springfield rifle at the age of 15. By the time I was 23 I had had about 6 years of military experience in school, college and the army. I did some expert shooting but , not beingin infantry, did not fire for record. All my experience could have been called that of officer training and as an officer. Some time back I foundan ancient certificate of, one might say, "graduation" from the School of Fire at Ft. Sill. A "gun bug" in a small way, I have 8 militar rifles, including 2 Mausers and a Carcano.

Most sincerely yours, Whitney Joy Whitney Jby.