

63 East 7th St., Apt. 24
New York 10003

March 21, 1967

Mrs. Sylvia Meagher
302 West 12th Street
New York 10011

Dear Mrs. Meagher:

I had been undecided who to write about what I think is an interesting, but apparently ignored, factor in the assassination of President Kennedy. On the available evidence--largely your reaction to the feckish business in Ramparts in November--I decided that you were the most appropriate person to contact.

Enclosed is a portion of Patrolman J.C. White's affidavit, printed at pages 253-256 in Volume VI of the supplements to the Report of the President's Commission. It strikes me that these basic questions at once arise:

(1) It is unclear to me from the photographs taken at the scene, but if there is not a train passing, why did White lie?

(2) Why do no other witnesses refer to this "big long freight train?"

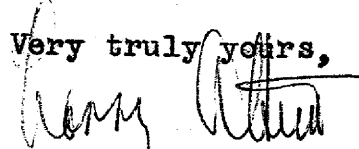
(3) If there was a train passing, why was it permitted to do so? Freights are routinely held up in yard work for various reasons; they are not held to the close schedules associated with passenger service.

(4) If there was a train passing, has anyone considered (a) that some shooting was done from it, or, (b) that a marksman on the ground--in front of the motorcade--might have used the train for his getaway?

(5) If there was a train passing, how can any of the witnesses to the shooting be sure of anything they heard? Any train makes some noise; White describes this as a "noisy train." And commonly trains on an overpass have their sound magnified.

It may be that this matter has been looked into, but I have read a good deal of the literature of the assassination and have not found any specific reference to it. I offer my observations for whatever you may be able to do with them.

Very truly yours,


Larry Atkins

enc.

PORTIONS OF TESTIMONY OF PATROLMAN J.C. WHITE TAKEN APRIL 9, 1964 IN DALLAS, TEXAS, BY COMMISSION COUNSEL JOSEPH A. BALL. PRINTED AT VOLUME VI PAGES 253-256.

After preliminaries, including Patrolman White's address ("2803 Klondike") the following colloquy took place:

Counsel Ball: Where were you?

Patrolman White: Standing on the west side of the overpass.

Ball: Where were you with reference to Elm, Main or Commerce as they go underneath the overpass?

White: Approximately at the north curb of Main Street.

. . .

Ball: Did you see the President's car come into sight?

White: No, sir; first time I saw it it has [sic] passed, passed under the triple underpass [sic].

Ball: You were too far away to see it, were you?

White: There was a freight train traveling. There was a train passing between the location I was standing and the area from which the procession was traveling, and--a big long freight train, and I did not see it.

Ball: Before the train went by, did you see some railroad personnel over on the--would it be the--

White: East side?

Ball: East side of the overpass?

. . .

Did you hear any shots?

White: No, sir.

Ball: Didn't?

White: No, sir.

Ball: First time you saw the President's car it was going underneath?

White: Yes, sir.

Ball: What did you do after that?

White: As soon as the train passed I went over and on the northwest side of the Depository Building. . . .

Ball: All right, now. You heard no sound of no [sic] rifle fire or anything?

White: No, sir.

Ball: Freight train was going through at the time?

White: Yes, sir.

Ball: Making noise?

White: Yes, sir; noisy train.

. . .
