



YALE LAW SCHOOL
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November 3, 1966

Dear Miss Meagher:

1. The Commission only cites Frazier to support the statement that Governor Connally could not have been hit after frame 240. It also reports him as saying that in his view Governor Connally was in position to be hit between frames 207 and 225. That is accurate enough. No misrepresentation there. Your point is quite a different one, which the Commission -- and this is one of the faults I find with it -- never really investigated. Could Governor Connally have received a bullet after frame 225? Shaneyfelt, another FBI expert, expressed the opinion that Governor Connally could have been hit at frame 238, or at least that is what he seems to say, although the point was not pursued. (Volume V, p. 155). He appeared also to agree with medical opinion that Governor Connally could have been hit at frame 235. (Volume V, p. 158). Frazier's own testimony does not seem to me as clear as you make it out. He says at one point:

There is only one position beyond frame 225 at which the Governor could have been struck according to the information furnished to me and from my examination of his clothing

Note that Frazier says, "beyond frame 225"; but in the next breath he seems to indicate that it would not have been after frame 231. (Volume V, p. 170). Throughout, Frazier is talking about the reconstruction, not about the evidence of the Zapruder film itself, and of course the reconstruction is subject to human error, with fractions of an inch in changes of position making a difference. Moreover, Frazier assumes throughout a bullet which is entirely undeflected from its original path. Furthermore, I am not at all clear whether he was judging positions at which Governor Connally could have been hit by a bullet that had already passed through President Kennedy, or positions in which Governor Connally could have been hit independently. As to the possibility of deflection, the bullet that went through Governor Connally fractured a rib, and might I suppose well have been deflected. Governor Connally himself, having viewed the film, thought that he was hit between frames 231 and 234. (Volume IV, p. 145). Dr. Shaw, who treated Governor Connally, and who also saw the film, thought that the Governor was hit at frame 236, give or take one or two frames. (Volume IV, p. 114). I hold no particular brief for the notion I suggested of a possible shot at the President at frames 185-6, and a later separate shot at Governor Connally. But I do not think the testimony you quote excludes it, certainly not when weighed against other testimony. I don't think the Commission investigated this possibility, eliciting testimony directed specifically at it, and attempting to reconcile or test conflicts in relevant testimony. I think somebody should, and I don't think that picking some lines out of Frazier's testimony and presenting them in isolation does the job.

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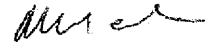
2. I thought I gave full credit to Epstein; at least I intended to do so. And I did not call Epstein a "demonologist."

3. I don't accept that the Commission suppressed the evidence you mention. The FBI and Secret Service reports you have in mind, and photographs of the President's clothing, were there for all to see in the Archives. Epstein saw them.

4. I am afraid you will have to get accustomed to the thought that in a case like this the only kind of truth that is possible is a truth of probabilities.

5. I don't propose to debate with you the question whether or not I consulted the volumes of hearings and exhibits. I don't go around protesting my honesty. You can not know that I failed to consult the record, and the few footnotes I printed might have indicated to you that I did.

Sincerely yours,



Alexander M. Bickel
Chancellor Kent Professor of Law
and Legal History