

13 June 1967

Mr. Jack Wardlaw
The New Orleans States-Item
New Orleans, La.

Dear Mr. Wardlaw,

Please accept my congratulations on your article "Did Lee Oswald Really Kill Kennedy?" in the June 10th issue, which seemed to me succinct and objective in marshalling the arguments for and against the Warren Report.

It is very difficult to synthesize material of such complexity and profusion without oversimplification (as I know from personal experience) but I think that your article maintained a high level of accuracy.

If I venture to make a few comments, it is more by way of elaboration (for which you were limited by space, no doubt) than by way of contradiction. For example, you say that "there is no testimony that these cars (behind the knoll) were searched." Police officer J.M. Smith did testify that he "checked all the cars in the parking lot" (7H 535) but that he found nothing that he could associate in any way with the assassination (7H 536).

On the weight of the stretcher bullet: It is very probable that, as your article states, more than three grains of metal were found in the wrist and thigh (there was also a bullet fragment or fragments in the chest, although one would not suspect that from reading the Warren Report alone). But the metal was not weighed (some of it was not recovered but remained in the Governor's body).

FBI expert Frazier did testify that the bullet from any shot fired at Kennedy from the sixth floor window had to wind up inside his body, in another occupant, or in the car—but he so stated in response to a hypothetical question. In terms of the real circumstances, he did not at all rule out a ricochet of the bullet out of the car (after striking the President); and it is significant here that at least two eyewitnesses testified that a bullet had struck the pavement near the car during the shooting. As to no bullet being found in Kennedy's body, it is a curious and still unexplained fact that the Washington Post published a report (only a few weeks after the assassination) that a bullet had lodged in the President's body, but only published that information after checking with and receiving confirmation from the FBI! The fact that the information had been cleared before being printed was revealed by the Washington Post in the summer of 1966, apropos of a major story on the autopsy findings viewed in the light of the book Inquest, which had just been published then.

A final comment: You say that JFK reacted to the first shot at frame 225, "indicating that he could not have been hit earlier than frame 210." The threshold of frame 210 is linked not so much to the reaction 15 frames later as to the fact that before frame 210 the car was concealed from a rifleman in the sixth floor window by the foliage of a live oak tree; and no sniper could have taken aim until the car cleared the tree at frame 210 (give or take a frame).

Yours very sincerely,

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