28 December 1971

Dr. John Nichols
University of Kansas
  Medical Center
Kansas City 66103

Dear John,

Thank you very much for your letter of the 22nd. I feel very
complimented both by the trouble you took to elaborate on your findings
with respect to the bullet velocity and kinetic energy, and by your
confidence in entrusting me with this privileged information. Please
feel sure that I will keep the contents of your letter strictly secret
from anyone else (I am filing it away in a sealed envelope where no one
but myself will have access to it).

The facts you have established with respect to percentage loss of
velocity and kinetic energy appear, even to my now hazy recollection of
the Warren Commission "reconstruction", irreconcilable with the official
ballistics findings and the physical evidence. Given your percentage
figures, it seems inconceivable that the "single bullet" even if it <u>had</u>
inflicted all the non-fatal wounds in both men would have suffered
sufficient energy decay to have lodged within the car or any of its
occupants. Perhaps my reasoning is defective, in which case I hope
that you will correct me, but it does seem to me that either a different
weapon and ammunition were actually used or that we have been given a
largely fabricated picture of the actual "hard" evidence.

I had a visit the other day from Bob Smith of the Fensterwald
committee, whom I had not met before, and he told me that in his
research at the Archives he ran into a document that stated that one
of the large bullet fragments recovered from the car had had to be
dug out of the back of the front seats!! although nowhere is it indicated
that any hole or other damage was found in the upholstery. How, in that
case, was it known that a bullet fragment was lodged in the seat back to be
dug out, unless the car was X-rayed? (Perhaps it was--I no longer recall.)

You are no doubt acquainted with Bob Smith and you may wish to
follow this up with him.

With warm good wishes for the new year,

Sincerely yours,

Sylvia Meagher
302 West 12 Street
New York NY 10014