

Telephone conversation with Vincent Salandria      Monday night 13 September 1965

Salandria will be delighted to come to New York to meet Mrs Field and the others who may be coming; he will bring his wife, and will plan to stay all day. When I called he plunged immediately into discussion of his interpretation of the Zapruder film and frames---apparently his exclusive preoccupation at the moment--speaking with great passion. He is convinced that Connally was hit at frame 292, that his analysis based on a hit at that frame makes everything "fall into place." He brushes aside the categorical statement by Frazier (I believe it was Frazier) that Connally could not have been shot from the sixth floor window after frame 225 (his reasoning was not clear to me). He is convinced that the first Kennedy shot and the Connally shot at frame 292 came from the TSBD window (to my question, did he believe that Oswald fired those shots, he replied--if I understood him--that Oswald probably did not, that he has a good idea about that, that Oswald may have been "used" without knowing it by someone or some group that he thought he was using," but that he did not wish to discuss this on the phone and would wait until we see each other). The head shot in frame 313 he is sure came from the grassy knoll. If Connally was shot in 292, as he is absolutely certain now he was (more certain than on his return from the Archives), there had to be two gunmen because the time interval 292 to 313 is too short for a lone rifleman. He has written or is completing an article on this which he hopes will appear in Liberation; however, there is a struggle going on within Liberation, with one faction opposed to further articles on the assassination, and he is not sure the article will be printed.

He confirmed that the two Philadelphia lawyers who with Marguerite Oswald visited Helen Markham, before her son's fall from the window, were as I had inferred Harold Feldman and himself. I asked if her other son (who had met them at the public library and talked to them in their car) had given them any useful information. He said that the son had told them that Mrs Markham had told her family that she had not even seen the Tippit shooting. She was standing on the corner but saw nothing until the shooting was over. He tried to see Markham again, on his one-day visit to Dallas last month; again she was evasive and self-contradictory, pleading again that she had to

baby-sit with her grandchildren, vacillating between willingness (or pretense) to see them later and not wishing to see them (or him) at all. On the original visit, she had asked them to return at another hour; when they approached her residence at the designated time, the place was surrounded by the Dallas police (two stationwagons full) and apparently they turned back without attempting to keep the appointment (I am not sure of that).

He has not taken any special interest in the ammunition clip but was mildly interested in my comments about the statement on p 555 of the WR and the specious footnote citations. Agrees something is queer.

Reverting to the shots and frame 292, I recall that Salandria said several times that the FBI would not play ball with the WC (Specter) about the timing of the Connally hit (?), that was why Specter kept mentioning a 45° trajectory; and would not play ball about the position of Connally's hand when he was hit, causing difficulties to the Parkland doctors' attempt to explain his wounds...etc. I am really not at all clear what Salandria's meaning was, it was difficult to get him to speak clearly and slowly because his excitement was at such a high pitch, and I could not really follow him in these excursions.

One other thing--he seems to have considerable confidence in whatever he heard last month from Ruth and Michael Paine. Feels that the latter did know Oswald well, more so than his testimony suggests, that they are more to be pitied than blamed because they got in with, or into the hands of, the Government. He takes seriously M Paine's apparent allegation that Oswald was an infiltrator and/or spy in right-wing groups, and not necessarily for left-wing groups. It will be recalled that Salandria and Feldman have always seemed to favour the theory that Oswald was an FBI/CIA recruit, which I personally find hard to accept.

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