

14 December 1966

Dear Margaret,

I was certain that you would be sending the press stories on Ruby, and I thank you very much for doing so. I've been feeling numbed and incredulous since the announcement of his hospitalization. So many people had predicted that Ruby would not be permitted to live long enough to go free and perhaps to talk. And this comes along! Right on schedule. What is the reaction in Dallas? your own reaction?

About the taxi-ride: Whaley first said that he dropped Oswald in the 500 block of North Beekley. The Secret Service reenacted that ride at 11 minutes, which worried them as it left insufficient time for all the other things Oswald had to do, yet still reach the Tippit scene in time. Whaley told the Secret Service that he could cut the time since he knew the ropes, how to beat red lights, etc., and he then reenacted the ride with the agents, cutting the 11 minutes to 9 minutes.

But that was still too long. Next the Commission tackled the problem. Whaley was persuaded that he had dropped Oswald in the 700 block instead of the 500 block of North Beekley--that is, at Neely Street. Apparently this was some two or more blocks closer to the rooming house, cutting time off both the actual taxi ride and Oswald's walk back to the house. The timing of the taxi-ride was cut to 5-1/2 or 6 minutes.

But none of the reenactments was in a metered cab. Whaley had said that the meter was 95¢ when he dropped Oswald. Therefore, a check on the accuracy of the timing of a reenactment would be to produce a 95¢ meter charge at the taxi rates that prevailed in November 1963. That would involve a calculation of both mileage and time, rather complicated, I am afraid. But perhaps your mathematical ability is better than mine and when you reenact the ride with a stop-watch you may be able to estimate the meter fare as well.

I hope I'm not being too difficult, demanding or incoherent. We are at peak pressure at the office and I feel as if my brain has been through a mixmaster.

The press clippings from the Dallas papers are most helpful, much more informative than the stories in the local press. My very warm thanks, good friend.

Sincerely yours,