

15 April 1972

Mr Edward R Slemmer
136 South Fulton Street
Allentown 18102

Dear Mr Slemmer,

I am glad to reply to your letter of the 11th, although with the passage of time my familiarity with the evidence has inevitably suffered. I am happy that my book is still being read; and I enclose information on how to obtain a xerographic copy of the Subject Index.

Available information on Oswald's apparel on the day of the assassination, at differing times up to his arrest, is incomplete, contradictory, and unsatisfactory, in part because of the failure of the official investigators to ascertain ascertainable facts. I tried in Accessories to indicate the important discrepancies and conflicts, especially as to the gray jacket.

H.L. Baker testified (3H 257) that when he encountered Oswald on the second floor, Oswald was wearing "a light brown jacket and maybe some kind of white-looking shirt". When Truly testified about the same encounter (3H 225), he was not asked to describe Oswald's attire.

The investigation of the Tippit killing was, to say the least, cursory. Apparently four bullets were fired at Tippit, three of which penetrated the body while the fourth first struck a button, if my recollection is correct. The Commission did have possession of the Tippit autopsy report but did not publish it in the Report or the Exhibits; I believe it is available from the National Archives. It did not take testimony from the Tippit autopsy surgeon nor, to the best of my knowledge, examine the clothing. The presidential order establishing the Commission and setting forth its terms of reference specified that it should seek to determine the truth so far as it could be known about the assassination and about the murder of the accused assassin but did not call for the investigation of the Tippit killing as such; and the Commission, on that technicality, probed into that murder only to implicate Oswald, which might also be said of its total inquiry.

I can only agree with your other observations about the deficiencies of the official investigation by the Commission and its servant agencies. I hope that I have provided some of the clarifications you desired and if I can be of further help, I will be happy to do so.

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Neagher
302 West 12 Street
New York NY 10014