

TOUCHE, ROSS, BAILEY & SMART

*Sylvia*  
*Thought you'd be interested*  
*in this letter. Just*  
*read L. Brown's article, six*  
*cartridges in Depository Bldg. Wow!!*  
*Dick*

80 PINE STREET  
NEW YORK, 10005

January 23, 1967

Mr. Barry Gray  
The Barry Gray Show  
WMCA Radio Station  
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Gray:

I am the researcher who accompanied Sylvia Meagher, the second night she was on your program. You may recall that I mentioned two photographs which would prove to you that there was a conspiracy in the assassination of President Kennedy. Actually there is a lot more evidence of a conspiracy than just the two photographs. The enclosed article, which I feel is well written and objective in spite of where it appeared, presents some of this evidence.

The critics of the critics of the Warren Commission tend to overlook the evidence and to concentrate on emotional comments. These are perhaps warranted in some cases, and perhaps not. At any rate, if you would read carefully this article by Mr. Lifton, I am sure you will reach the same conclusion I have.

As for the photographs I was talking about, there are two which by now Harold Weisberg may have already called to your attention. One is a still photo taken by Phil Willis showing the motorcade from the rear as it travelled down Elm Street. The second is frame 202 of the Abraham Zapruder movie which shows the motorcade from the front. These two pictures were taken at the same instant as can be seen by lining up the two cameramen in each others photos with objects in between.

The significance is that the first shot had been fired by the time these two pictures were taken. The testimony of both men plus indications in the photos themselves shows this is true. Thus, the first shot was fired while JFK was behind the tree from the sixth floor Depository window. Thus, Oswald did not fire the first shot. Thus, a conspiracy.

Mr. Barry Gray

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From close examination of the Zapruder movie frames, I believe the first shot was fired at about frame 196. At that point, JFK's arm movement appears to change from a wave to the crowd into a motion toward his throat.

The first shot may have hit JFK from the front, but it seems likely that it came from the rear and hit him in the back. About the only logical place it could have come from is the Dal Tex building, an office building to the east of the Depository building. It had to have come from a line of fire southeast of the oak tree and the Depository building. It is unlikely that it came from the street both because of the angle of fire and the obvious exposure of a gunman in plain view of everyone.

Neither the Warren investigation or any of the FBI, Secret Service or Dallas police investigations ever attempted to locate witnesses in or around the Dal Tex building. Yet, there were several as shown in James Altgen's photo which, I am sure, Mr. Weisberg showed you. One purpose of a new investigation should be the rounding up of all the people who were in or around that building. Also, investigation of the companies using offices in the building on the side facing Elm Street and their employees would be in order. Questions should be asked about the roof of the building and the guards, if any.

There was one person arrested by the Dallas police in the building shortly after the assassination. This appears in the police radio logs but is never referred to anywhere else. A new investigation should find out who it was, why he was arrested, what happened to him, and he should be questioned.

I hope you continue to have an open mind on this subject and invite comments from "researchers." I prefer this term to the word "critics." It does not seem necessary or desirable to me to be too critical of the Warren Commission in trying to discover the truth about the assassination.

On the other hand there seems to me to be no need to attack the researchers on any other basis than making sure their analysis of the evidence is accurate. Of course, one could attack the literary style of a Weisberg, but what does that have to do with finding out who killed our President? On the other hand I have also heard people say, what difference does it make who killed him, he's dead and finding out won't bring him back to life. I believe this is an emotional attitude which is astounding in the U.S. of today where we spend much time and money tracking down the real murderers of ordinary citizens.

Mr. Barry Gray

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The criticism of the researchers often seems to be "they haven't turned up any new evidence." This is really silly. How could they, with no investigative powers or capabilities. On the contrary, what they have done is to analyze, for the most part accurately, the evidence already collected by the Warren Commission and its predecessors, far more objectively and with more thoroughness. Admittedly, they have had more time than the Commission.

One simple example is the Willis-Zapruder photographs mentioned earlier in my letter which were completely available to the staff of the Commission. Because of their time bind and decentralized authority and responsibility, the Commission did not see what Harold Weisberg saw. (Actually, I believe Lillian Castellano in Los Angeles discovered it first.) Mr. Weisberg saw the incontrovertible photographic evidence that JFK was shot before Zapruder frame 202, whereas the Commission concluded it was after frame 207 when the car emerged from behind the tree.

Others have seen (as you can, by looking at the Zapruder frames in sequence) that the fatal head shot had to have come from the front or Newton's third law of motion would have been violated. By the way, it is obvious to me that the FBI, who prepared the exhibit of the Zapruder frames, got two of them reversed in the sequence following frame 313. Perhaps the Commission staff looked ~~ed~~ at these two and decided that JFK's head snapped forward instead of backward.

The whole point is, that professionals; photographers, lawyers, detectives, etc. should be doing the job now being done only by amateur researchers, like myself.

My objective in carrying out research is to help determine the facts and if the net result is a confirmation that Oswald was the lone killer, O.K. I do not believe that is the way it will turn out, as you can see from the above. We will never know, however, without a new official investigation.

Sincerely yours,



Richard E. Sprague  
The University Club  
1 West 54th Street  
New York, New York

RES/jnl

P.S. I am sorry I had to miss your show on Wednesday, January 18 but, I had to be in Denver on business that evening. I also missed Martha Dean's program the next day with Mr. Weisberg and others.