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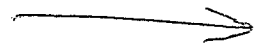
Texas 75219

January 16 1979

Dear Sylvia,

Thanks for the "closed circuit" stuff, which arrived swiftly. I today talked to Barker, who was friendly. Basically, he says, after I read the whole memo to him:

- 1) I am totally blank on it.
- 2) The best I can suppose is that Johnson, who had an insatiable curiosity about everything, asked to see all the film out of Dallas. I believe we were asked to supply a copy of everything shot on the day of the assassination. ))
- 3) However, he is thrown by the "closed circuit" reference, which to him and me means - more normally - videotape of something shown internally. As one would return to a hospital's closed circuit pictures of a heart operation.
- 4) It does not refer to the Zapruder film. He knew Zapruder well after the assass., and knows Zapruder took the film first to policeman (at the scene), then to the Secret Service. KRLD and Barker (the CBS affiliate) got to see a copy of Zapruder the day after the assass (he thinks that day), but were then outbid by Life. Anyway, they didn't have the original, so as you surmise this document cannot refer to Z film.
- 5) Looking at the date of the memo, it occurred to him it could be footage of Ruby shooting Oswald. Except that that was networked live and recorded, so Washington had no need to send to Dallas for it.
- 6) Although he remains puzzled, he thinks it cannot have been anything amazing, or he would remember.



POSTSCRIPT (and I think conclusion)

Barker has just called back within fifteen minutes of our original talk. He says he called straightaway to "someone involved at the tv station at the time", and concluded that after all it was the footage of Ruby shooting Oswald. The story is as follows. An FBI agent was sitting with Barker at KRLD when the shooting took place, and called Washington from the office. Washington (and Barker thinks later Johnson personally) called for immediate delivery of the footage of the shooting. It was closed circuit, says Barker, in that the coverage in the basement was being shown "in house" only. It was not, as many have said, shown live - although it was piped up to the networks within minutes. The dispatch of the KRLD version was simply a slavish follow-through to the original request, perhaps boosted by a later Johnson demand (characteristic), to "send me everything there is". I think that's at least plausible, and we should let it rest there. Will do more if you let me know, though,

T.