

November 27, 1967

Mr. Raymond J. Marcus
1249 Hi Point Street
Los Angeles, California 90035

Dear Ray,

I wish you had paused for a moment before sitting down to write what I consider to be a harsh and unfair letter. I can see no good to be served by the various critics of the Warren Report engaging in internecine conflict. It seems to me we have enough work to do without fighting among ourselves.

Now with respect to your charge of "flagrant plagiarism" concerning your "earlier ^{DISCOVERY} discovery and publication of the double head hit" and your "discovery of the 238 Connally shoulder dip": --- let me take the question of double head hit first.

You say that your discovery with respect to the head hit was made and original noted in an unpublished letter to Ramparts in June of 1966. Since it was unpublished, I never had a chance to see it. You say that the conclusion first appeared in published form in Epoch magazine for November 27, 1966. I have not seen this magazine but I'm perfectly willing to believe you when you tell me your observation was published there. But as I say in the Post article and in the book, I made the discovery in the summer of 1966 while studying the film in the Archives. Vincent Salandria was informed of my discovery concerning the double head hit as soon as I thought it was established on sound grounds in July of 1966. He is my warrant that the discovery was made on my own at the Archives with no reference to your "earlier" discovery. I believe that you realize that Harold Weisberg independently arrived at the same conclusion in the Fall of 1966. The fact that many researchers arrive at the same conclusion when studying the same evidence is a common enough event in any scientific discipline. To my mind, when such mutuality of discovery and conclusion exist, it should be a source not of friction but of rejoicing among the researchers themselves.

Now let me turn to the 238 hit on Governor Connally. I'm glad to have your address in Los Angeles now, because I was in the process of sending a book to Massachusetts. Permit me to read from page 71 of Six Seconds:

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"At Z235-236 his mouth opens -- perhaps in the cry, 'Oh, no, no, no!' that he remembers making just before being hit. Finally, in frame 238 we see a very definite change indicating the impact of a bullet: his right shoulder collapses,⁷ his cheeks and face puff, and his hair is disarranged."

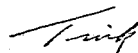
⁷Raymond Marcus of Los Angeles first discovered this shoulder collapse in the spring of 1965.

You are certainly correct in saying that you were the first, bar none, to discover the sudden collapse of the Governor's shoulder at frame 238. We are all in your debt for this discovery made with the poorest data imaginable, namely the lousy copies of the Zapruder film in Life Magazine. I congratulate you on this discovery, Ray. Now, the two other indices of a bullet hit, namely, the disarranging of the Governor's hair, and most importantly, the puffing of his cheeks and face, -- I take it that you do not claim credit for discovering these two other indices. I found them when working at Life Magazine on the good copies of the Zapruder film. The coming together of all these indices of a bullet hit in Zapruder frame 238 indicated to me that in fact the Governor had been hit at that point. If you agree with all this, then it seems to me that you must agree that in my book I've given you proper credit for the discovery you made, namely the collapse of the Governor's shoulder at Zapruder 238. It is regrettable that the Saturday Evening Post was unable to use footnotes in their presentation of my case. Many things had to be left out which I regret at this time, including the reference to your early discovery of the shoulder collapse. I am writing a letter to the Post making several corrections to the article as printed, and will enclose in that letter an appeal that some indication of your discovery of the shoulder collapse be indicated. I am going to enclose a copy of that letter to the Post in this letter to you.

I hope that by furnishing this additional information, Ray, you will see the issue in a different light, and perhaps at some point in the future be willing to withdraw your unfair and harsh charge of plagiarism. I hope so. I have admired for a long time the acuity and honesty of your work, and hope that we might continue to work together in the future. A copy of the book is being mailed to you from New York.

With best regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,



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