

21 August 1970

Dear Cyril,

Many thanks for your letter of the 11th. Actually, the Texas Observer excised from the triple book review a sentence about the "History of Assassination" --that it was a book written by an imbecile for the edification of idiots--the loss of which gave me a pang of regret. More important, the editor deleted one paragraph about the Newman book, apparently to save a few inches of space, which should never have been sacrificed since it presented one of the strongest arguments against Newman's theory that Oswald was systematically concealing his presence in Dallas in order to escape becoming a suspect in any attack on General Walker. The paragraph pointed out that on 25 October 1963 Oswald publicly warned an ACLU-Dallas meeting against General Walker, thus placing on record not only his presence in Dallas but his antipathy to Walker.

I have just returned from a ten-day visit to Dallas. Finally, I had an opportunity to see for myself Dealey Plaza, the Walker house, and all the other sites connected with the case. The experience had almost a surrealist quality, in personal terms, as you can well understand. Dealey Plaza was exactly as I had always seen it in mind's eye--apparently I am about the only one who did not find it smaller or otherwise at variance with the prior image.

You need not worry about J. Edgar. It was a blow to my vanity, but obviously neither he nor the Dallas Police consider me a threat and I was entirely unmolested and unharrassed during my stay. Ignored, in fact, although another critic, a lady from California who arrived just as I was about to return to New York, telephoned me at my hotel and insisted that her line was being monitored.

I spent my time mainly with one lady who is the axis of a group of about three or four Dallas critics, most of whom are oriented toward a Communist/Castro conspiracy hypothesis. They were nevertheless extremely hospitable and considerate, and more than willing to share their information and materials. Several new items struck me as really important: One, a clipping from the Dallas Times-Herald of 11/24/63 which quotes Lt. Day of the Dallas Police as saying that one of the bullets fired in the assassination had been found about 100 yards from the 6th floor window, and another but unnamed police officer as saying that it was more like 125 yards!! Two, a photo of the exterior of the Book Depository building taken by one of the critics I was visiting who was on the scene about 10 minutes after the shots, which shows numerous cartons at or on the window and which seems not to correspond at all with the official description of a sniper's nest. The photo was taken at 12:45 pm --give or take a minute or two--which is to say, before the window was disturbed. Third, a viewing of the Nix film in slow motion, which greatly expands one's appreciation of the head snap. Nix was behind the car on the left--the side on which Jacqueline Kennedy sat--and in the slow motion screening of his film you can see JFK experience the impact of that head shot, violently jolted--rising out of the seat, with the head whipped so forcefully to the left that by the end of the reaction you can see his full face, where before the shot you had seen only the back of the head.

Another question came up during my discussions with the local critics--the omission from the autopsy report on Oswald (CE 3002) of his Rh factor, although his blood type is given as "A". They claim that all other autopsy reports which they have examined at the county records building (of subjects unrelated to this case) invariably do give the Rh and that it is omitted only from the Oswald autopsy report. Can you tell me if the omission is in fact unusual and possibly significant?

The Dallas critics are well aware of your important contributions to the case and if you should ever visit there you would get a royal welcome.

Best regards,