

31 December 1966

Dear Dr. Wecht,

Many thanks for your letter of the 29th, which arrived this morning together with an envelope from Ted Kupferman enclosing a copy of his letter to the Archives, which I assume he sent also to you. I appreciate very much your good wishes, and your help and friendship all along.

To clarify one question: Yes, we are certain that the car did not accelerate suddenly after the first shot was fired. The Warren Report states on page 641 that in fact the car slowed down momentarily after the shot that struck the head, and then speeded up rapidly.

As to the neuromuscular reaction, certainly a lay person cannot rule it out or even understand the dynamics of various types of neuromuscular phenomena. Twitches, tics, imbalance, and I suppose even the violent seizures seen in grand mal, with the whole body convulsed and thrown about as if immersed inside an invisible mixmaster (I had the misfortune to see such a seizure years ago, one of my office colleagues). Perhaps even a neuromuscular reaction which overcame and reversed the velocity and momentum of a rifle bullet, throwing the body back instead of forward. Okay: I guess it is possible.

But the Warren Commission saw the same film that we saw and must have noted and worried about that smashing back of the body on impact of the head bullet. Would any honest fact-finding body pretend it was not on the film—fail to solicit medical opinion on the possible cause of this incompatible "effect" of the "cause" it asserts—fail to explore the likelihood of a neuromuscular reaction and, if experts considered that such a reaction could, or could not, account for the body recoil, fail to take the necessary next steps?

Since the Commission, the prosecution as so many of us regard it, maintained silence on what is prima facie evidence against its case, the critics are entitled to assume, in the absence of direct evidence from Commission sources or from its own experts (i.e., yourself, Dr. Riddle, etc., who find no conclusive evidence which reconciles the body reaction with a bullet striking the back of the head) that the Commission maintained silence because it knew, or feared, that it could not overcome this inimical phenomenon. They have, it seems to me, yielded by default. Their silence is a tacit confession that they could not argue the point—they dared not try. There is too much collateral evidence that the shot came from the right front.

With warm greetings to you and your lovely wife,

Sincerely yours,