

Dear Howard, (Sh)

9/2/72

As clips continue to reach me, it becomes more apparent that the AP's stories and the Times service reproduction are pretty extensive. I don't think any real problems except what for years has been the reality, influence on editors and opinion-makers accrues to the extensiveness.

Friends have supplied me with brief transcripts of some of the radio play I missed. For example, CBS net Sat 26, apparently after AP wire story, angled "Oswald could not have acted alone.")

The next day, whether or not net I can't say, but including his voice, has his claim to originating the SBT and a not exactly faithful representation of the condition of the bullet, with the kind of irrelevancy he would, I am sure, tear apart in court. The rest of what he says is simply both dated and untrue. I had expected to make copies, but why take the time, sicken you, and waste the cost I can't afford. I'm setting up a separate file. I'll have to remember where I put the first few items.

I am receiving a few comments, like the excessive one (as I've told him in a note) from Ed beginning "A prophet is without honor...", but in no case from a single one who disagreed with me. Included are several members of the press. I do think it is important for you to understand that Ed is overly generous. I think you should understand that this is not tribute to any special genius I have (and don't) but a measure of the inability of others to think without personal involvements, emotional intrusions upon thinking or to be, in some cases, even willing to think. But to return to today's receipts:

There seems to have been two AP stories on Cyril's press conference, and I got the second first. The first was for p.m. Saturday and the second Sunday's papers. Not recalling here I filed the first I got, I date the one that came today. It was put on the wire in two "takes" or pieces, the first at 3:16 p.m., the second four minutes later. This one begins with the above quote. Everything old hat and wrong is credited as "Wecht's findings". Six years after it was first available, more after pictures of it were published, "I was quite amazed at the pristine conditions of the bullet." Or, Cyril discovered America. The modesty of the man is overwhelming (emphasis added): "I discovered a dark brownish-black object inside the brain...nobody ever mentioned this previously. Nobody ever described it..." Not, at least since, the time I phoned him at home, left word, he wasn't there, and he returned the call reverse from Las Vegas some years ago.

By this time he had wised up a bit: "He did not say if he thought the object was a bullet." Considering that it would have fluoresced on the X-rays had it been, not a bit too soon--after the earlier quote that it could have been.

Here's a gem from the AP story from the SF Chronicle, I think not in the earlier ones I got: "He said the X-rays proved that the front and rear wounds in the slain President were caused by the bullet which passed through Kennedy's body and then struck Connally." (The latter I'm sure did didn't say.) But the first part / Nobody yet realizes how foolish Marshall and his federal pals were to give Lattimer first access. Cyril really served them better, incredible as it seems. If you disagree, make a note for when you are here.

One of his criticisms of Lattimer is that he "spent only three or four hours ~~flattening~~ in the archives" (sic).

This story, a full column printed, concludes with above quotes to the discovery of sex, invention of the wheel and, with appropriate modesty, no claim for what is no less his due, Daylight Saving Time. And all the time Mark Lane had conned me into believing that it is to him that we are indebted for all these blessings. Oh, well, as long as we have ~~such~~ such blessings.... HW