December 9, 1969

Dear Harold,

Many thanks for the Whitney Joy letter. The matters are not so important that you need take the time to reply to my comments, but you might be interested to hear what I have to say.

I am dubious of the TSBD garage as the source of any shots because of the massive crowds just outside it. I doubt whether one could have gotten a bullet past all those people. What Joy says in first paragraph about the tree not blocking view from seventh floor is important(if true). MXXMX Dillard shows all the (I think all) 7th floor windows closed. However, the same would apply to the TSBD roof and I have strong inclinations some shots came from there.

Although this particular letter does not mention anything about the force of the head bullets, it shows some of the basic ignorances which Joy suffers from. He says "Knock the head to the left and the body would pull it back...unless the body went with it." Well, the body did go with it as you can see by the violent motion of the right arm. Joy's observations are worthy of much credit and they parrallel exactly my own when I was addicted to one head shot from behind; he uses the same explanations. About the brain matter on the head(or scalp matter) he is right but he is assuming a Thompson fantasy that the knoll shot exited out the back of the head; it hit a part of the head not visible to Z but seen in both Moorman and Muchmore and there indicative of a front shot. He attempts to explain the backward motion exactly as I did, mainly by having Mrs. JFK holding him down. If he knows so much about force, then he show know that this is what numerous physicists have told me--nonsense; Mrs. K couln't hold him down.

Joy's Connally hit comments suffer because he puts too much reliance on the accuracy of variable trajectories. His comment on Tink's mauser picture is good if true. The bit with the mauser still confuses me and I wonder if it is not tied in to the Mauser found on the TSBD roof. I'm trying to find out where I can contact Thayer Waldo to get more on that story. It is quite important. I got a letter from Maggie Field about it. Interesting how he too thinks JFK was hit by a small caliber, high velocity bullet which explodes upon impact.

Joy's calculation of the angle through the neck is preposterous. You simply cannot do what he did to get an angle. Using his method, I could arrive at measures from 0 to 180 degrees. I believe John Nichols has measured the angle to be 18 degrees. This may be unfair, and it does not mean that I distrust Joy, but he seems so proud to have found the garage as a source of shots that he is making the evidence fit that location. Because JFK was turned when he was hit, the angle is invalid anyway even though it is entirely wrong. (43 degrees through the neck measuring backwards from the front of the throat would mean that the bullet entered just about at the rt. shoulder joint.

If you can talk to a physicist, ask him about the two simlutaneous shots. I've already asked some who agree that the head could have been moved as it was.

Tomorrow I will be getting copies of a bunch of letters I want to send you including the Panel mail.

Still,

Sorrels