

Dear Dave,

6/18/93

When I told the AP reporter to whom I refer in the letters to Weinman about the Connally fragments still in his body that I was ashamed of myself for not thinking in advance about what we should do with his death impending she was incredulous. As she certainly should have been. That I had too many other things on my mind may explain it but that does not excuse it. Whether or not I would have been able to make a differente may be questionable but without the preparation required, such as an earlier and better prepared letter to Reno, there was so much less chance. And if ABC-TV can be taken as typical, it incorrectly angled what was used, and then too late.

While I cannot predict what Lardner would have done and certainly cannot predict what the national desk's policy would have been, although it is probably that it would not have been ecstatic, it turned out that he was too busy to spend much time on the story and when he persuaded his desk to give him much more space than he'd been given, he was pretty much limited by time constraints to what the conspiracy theorists had before him.

Meanwhile, there is the I suppose inevitable lack of coordination as so many circulate what they do among these conspiracists only. For one example, I got from Dr. Gary Aguillar, in San Francisco last week or early this week, what Wallace Wilam had sent him from Tenn. It is quite useful but when I'd done all the basic work in that area he had not sent it to me. He tabulated the weights of the fragments as Frazier gave them and as they were tabulated on neutron activation analysis. Not having been in touch with me about any of that he was not aware of how Guinn's answer to Lardner's question after he testified to HSCA fit so importantly with his tabulation.

Then AARC so overly anxious to promote itself, understandable with its need to raise money, made its faulty approach inevitable. The conspiracy theorists can conceive of nothing else being important. For all the files AARC has they seem not to have been prepared for anything other than the prove-the-conspiracy demand. But if Jim had spoken to me only a day or two earlier ^{when he proved LIT} he could have done with what I would have given him what removed their demand from a political assertion into a factual explanation. With any attention, that could have had some impact.

But I suppose it is inevitable that they'll get the attention because they can and that they'll keep it to themselves, make the identical mistake over and over again. Jim seems to have cast himself in Fensterwald's role. Reminds me of how Bud grabbed the memo of transfer which I'd gotten by much effort and once he got it staged a press conference without even mention of it to me and produced Cyril to shout the irrelevant, "Gimme that brain!" They were so uninformed about the fact that they did not know that the X-rays show the left hemisphere, the only one intact, was entirely undamaged- not even a bullet or fragment path in it. So what in the world would Cyril have done with the brain? The whole thing was then converted into an anti-Kennedy propaganda.... Our friends have forgotten their Santayana! In this they can be said to have been largely if not entirely counterproductive. H