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May 29, 1981

Mr. Earl Golz
The Dallas Morning News
Communications Center
Dallas, Texas 75265

Dear Earl:

Are you aware of recent developments in the controversy over the "acoustics evidence" that seriously challenge the HSCA conclusions? I'm referring to the work of Todd Vaughan and Steve Barber. Much of what they argue (in a two-part unpublished mss available from the authors) is, I think, in error, but there is one point which I have checked out (using Mary's tapes) and found very significant. Its this:

Decker's transmission on channel two, made approximately one minute after Curry's first order: "go to the hospital...," contains the words: "hold everything secure until...." That transmission is heard, in part, on channel one less than a second after the time when Barger identified the fourth impulse (thought to be the last shot during the assassination). Vaughan and Barber suggest, and I agree, that the stuck microphone on channel one must have picked up this channel two transmission from a near-by radio switched to channel two. Indeed, there are several times between 12:20 and 12:40 when channel two transmissions are heard on channel one.

How is it possible for a channel two transmission (Decker's) broadcast at least a minute after the onset of the shooting to be heard on channel one within a second of the fourth shot (as determined by Bolt, Baranek and Newman)? I think it is not possible, unless Mary's tape of channel one transmissions is not an authentic reproduction of the channel one dictabelts. It is possible, I suppose, for the tape I'm using (Mary's) to have been spliced or otherwise rendered inaccurate. One could, maybe you could, determine if the original channel one dictabelt contains the channel two Decker transmission at the time indicated above. If it does, then the acoustics evidence is incredible.

Vaughan and Barber share with Pellicano and others the conviction that the open microphone was located somewhere near the Trade Mart, perhaps at the Stemmons-Industrial interchange. I'm leaning toward that conclusion myself.

Best wishes, Earl. Thanks so much for taking several hours to chat with me about the assassination controversy during my visit to Dallas late last January.

Sincerely,

Mark L. Nelson

Can you tell me if anyone in the National Academy of Sciences did a report on the independent research of the "acoustics evidence"?

Do you have a copy of that report, please?