NY TIMES BOOK REVIEW
10/2/88

Letters

Jack Ruby's Timing

To the Editor:

It's good to know that David W. Belin is still on the case. In his letter (Sept. 4) he complains about the split-second timing described in my novel "Libra" on the day Jack Ruby shoots Lee Harvey Oswald. But there is no split-second timing as Mr. Belin represents it. There is only "the normal shuffling." Ruby gets up, paces the living room, watches television, reads the paper, eats breakfast, talks on the phone, realizes he is late, takes a longer-than-necessary route on his way downtown, looks at the wreaths in Dealey Plaza, feeds his dog and then goes to a Western Union office to wire money to an employee. Imperfectly motivated as always, he wants to let events decide his course of action. If he gets a chance to shoot Oswald despite his laggard pace, it means he was fated to do it. The timing is "split-second" only in the sense that Ruby and Oswald happen to approach the ramp at the same time. The text is clear on these points.

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