

Mr. Bernard Harris
16F Brunswick Ave.,
New Bern, S.C. 28562

11/1/91

Dear Mr. Harris,

I am now 78, in impaired health and limited in what I am able to do, so it is not possible for me to respond fully to all the many questions I am asked by people like you in your 12/27 letter. Moreover, to a large degree, I have the possible answers in my books, of which I enclose a list.

The first sentence of your letter reflects the enormous influence on people of the conspiracy-theory literature all of which is faulted in a variety of ways. Mostly the theories have no basis in fact and ignore the vast amount of official records now available. This sentence referring to Tony Summers' "Conspiracy" says that it reports intragovernmental withholding of evidence. True, and he was not the first to report it. But at the same time I invited him here, I now have about a quarter of a million pages of those once-withheld records (fewer at the time he wrote that book) and he had no interest in them. However, he was interested for his coming book and Hoover and he and several of his assistants spent a considerable amount of time and left with a considerable number of copies. The point I am making is that neither Tony nor any of the others who seek to palm their theories off as fact ever made any real effort to learn what is available. This of course makes it easier for them to weave theories that are refuted by the evidence they prefer not to have to inhibit them,

In short, none of the books promoting these conspiracy theories or pretending to solve the crime is dependable. They do influence the thinking of concerned people like you. But I cannot take the time to go into all of this to the many people who like you write me.

I do not have cable and had no interest, in part because of the foregoing explanation, in seeing the Nigel Turner expansion of his original show for A & E. I do agree with your criticism. I agreed to be interviewed only because he promised me he would not do that he then did.

What you say is not true, that there is "real evidence" of Oswald's "association with ONI and Guy Banister and David Ferrie," although there is reason to believe that he and Ferrie were not strangers. The Banister stuff is crap.

Of the questions you ask I'll respond to a few.

The only Jackie "account of events" of which I know not previously published is a single withheld page of her Warren Commission testimony that ultimately I got. I think I have it in Post Mortem but I'm not sure.

Why have the Kennedys not agree to an exhumation of the body? Who asked for it?

Nobody.

There is no reason to believe that Oswald was in the lunchroom at the time of the

shooting. I went ~~it~~ into this in my first book.

On intrusions, of which there have been some, you have gone for Garrison's fictional account of his own fiasco. There was no need for anyone to influence him. He was his own worst enemy. He merely made things up as he went and explained his failure away by falsely attributing it to federal intervention. I was there. I'm telling you the fact, the truth. ^{He} did it all to himself.

Some of what you say about Ruth Paine just is not true, again reflecting the influence of these faulted books. She did not get Oswald that job at the TSBD, either.

There is no possibility at all that Oswald was duped into carrying a sniper's rifle into the building, again in part made clear in my first book.

I hope you can see why I can't continue telling people what I have published so they can get it in greater detail.

~~And~~ Nobody can tell you how many shots were fired and if you are wise you'll pay no attention to anything said by those who ~~do~~^{do}. With regard to the known shots, I did go into them in enormous detail in my books.

Despite what Groden says, neither ~~Ferie~~^{Ferie} nor Braden had an office in that building. See what I mean about these books that "salver" the crime? Fictional.

You refer to "the east side of Elm Street." It has no east side! It runs east-and-west. And no shot could have come from the manhole.

The only worthwhile book ~~for~~ on the assassination that are out of print of which I know are Sylvia Leagher's and Howard Roffman's and both are great, and my own Oswald in New Orleans, and I do not know where you can get them.

Sincerely,

Hardley

16 Brunswick Ave.
New Bern, North Carolina
27 Oct., 1991 28562

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

Some seven or eight years ago I happened to read Anthony Summers' book Conspiracy on the John F. Kennedy assassination, and was absolutely astounded by the degree of intragovernmental involvement to deny, suppress, and destroy crucial evidence. Already aware of the CIA's long history of dirty tricks and assassinations, as well as the FBI's COINTELPRO activities to infiltrate and discredit the civil rights movement, the American Indian Movement, and the Salvadoran refugee organization CISPES, I was amazed not by the conspiracy itself but the magnitude of it. Other books followed, the most recent one being High Treason, by Robert Groden and Harrison E. Livingstone. So it was with great interest that I watched the recent television series "The Men Who Killed Kennedy", which aired on Friday nights the last five weeks. The last program, entitled "The Witnesses" (Friday, Oct. 25), instead of revealing evidence the viewing public would not be aware of, appeared to feel obligated to include witnesses like FBI agent James Hosty (his main contribution was to allude to Oswald's reputed Marxist ideology), Ruth Paine's bland recital of her acquaintanceship with the Oswalds, and former Dallas policeman Gus Rose's relating how the DPD had found Oswald's Minox camera (was it really his?) at Ruth Paine's), all of their testimony more or less like Warren Commission damage control and making Oswald look like the dedicated Marxist the real evidence of his association with ONI and Guy Banister and David Ferrie seems to contradict. This is especially true when other witnesses like Amos Euins (sixteen years old at the time, he saw one of the assassins actually shooting from the "Oswald" window, and it wasn't Oswald) and others like Julia Ann Mercer (who saw a man in a pickup truck dropping another man with a rifle off on Elm St. beside the Grassy Knoll some fifteen minutes before

the shooting began; two days later she would see Jack Ruby on television and recognize him as the driver of the pickup truck) whose testimonies were ignored by the Warren Commission.

Many questions come to mind:

What was Jacqueline Kennedy's account of events?

Why haven't the Kennedys yet consented to an exhumation of JFK's body?

Why was Oswald apparently in the second floor lunchroom of the TSED during the shooting when almost everyone else was outside watching the motorcade?

Have many of the independent researchers such as yourself been intimidated and subjected to the surveillance and setups such as that Jim Garrison experienced while DA of New Orleans?

Did anyone ever obtain a record of Ruth Paine's telephone calls for at least a year prior to the assassination, especially when we learn that her father and brother-in-law were employed in the intelligence community?

How did it happen that she got Oswald a job at the TSB D less than two months before the assassination?

Did anyone in the TSED notice any strangers in the building in the hour(s) prior to the shooting?

Since the length of the package which Oswald claimed to have contained curtain rods really was twenty-four to twenty-six inches and could not have contained the 6.5 Mannlicher Carcano even when the latter was disassembled, it might have contained a custom-made sniper's rifle which could be broken down easily and which Oswald might have been duped into believing was for extra-security reasons. Also, what happened to the curtain rods? Did anyone ever see them at the TSED?

Exactly how many shots were fired in Dealey Plaza that day? Groden says six, according to the impulses from the Dictabelt.

Shot # One came from behind. Did it miss? Shot # Two also came from behind, and was it the shot which hit Kennedy in the upper back? If the first head shot (#Three) came from the Grassy Knoll area and hit the right parietal area of Kennedy's head, and if shot # Four came from behind (from the "Oswald" window) and also struck Kennedy's head, which shots hit Connally? After all, his wounds were caused by at least two separate shots. Also, according to the acoustic tests done at Dealey Plaza by the HSCA in 1978, shots one and six (that were recorded on the Dictabelt and were recognized by acoustic scientists as gunshots) were not tested as to their location in the plaza. Since witnesses saw two men hurrying from the Dal-Tex building nearby right after the shooting (one was a Mafia-connected character, Jim Braden, who Groden says had an office in the same building in New Orleans as David Ferrie in late 1963), one other was taken to DPD and soon released, with the DPD keeping no record of who he was or questions which were asked him, common sense dictates that the first shot impulse of the Dictabelt might have come from the Dal-Tex building, it being the best sniper's vantage point in respect to hitting Kennedy as his car turned left onto Elm St. And the last shot (number six on the Dictabelt, and like shot number one, untested by the HSCA as to location) most probably came from either the Grassy Knoll or from the east side of Elm St. near the manhole cover.

Also, on the third program of the A&E series two underworld witnesses claimed that three Mob hitmen from Marseilles were hired by persons unknown to kill Kennedy.

There are a number of books on the assassination which are out of print. Do you know where I might obtain some of them?

Respectfully yours,
Bernard W. Harris
Bernard W. Harris