July 13, 1966

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Hyattstown, Md 20734

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I am sorry for the delay in answering your request for information. It was caused in part by a misunderstanding: I thought that Lillian Castellano was going to answer you directly. It turns out that Hal Verbe and not Mrs. Castellano called you by phone last week.

Quite apart from that I'm afraid we've not come up with as much info as we'd like with specific reference to your questions about the "motion of the President's body in response to the impact of the bullets" which you recollected as being in the Hearings & Exhibits testimony not directly related to comment on the Zapruder film. This is a bit general and a bit vague in the opinion of the researchers here unless you are concerned with the head shot. Thomas Stam's memorandum, or a copy of it, was sent to Sylvia Meagher by Mrs. Castellano and I've asked Mrs. Meagher to send it to you, but she says that she's sure that's not the answer you're looking for.

Lillian was interested to learn that the National Archives contains a 16mm, instead of an 8mm, copy of the Zapruder film and she was not surprised that it was a copy thrice removed from the original. I told her also the same four frames are missing amongst the slides that are absent in the film proper. She feels others are also missing and that there are probably more points of impact on the victims besides those admitted by the Warren Commission.

Now if I am accurately rendering what I have in my notes, it is Lillian's feeling that frame 161 of the Zapruder film is really frame 168 and that, likewise 166 is really 171, finally that 210 is in fact 208. I have renumbered my reconstruction photo pages in the WR with her corrections. She told me that the Willis photograph # 5 corresponds with frame 202 of Zapruder and finally that FBI expert Frazier is misrepresented in the Warren Report with respect to the Connally hit; that in his testimony he says that Connally could have possibly been hit anywhere from frames 207 through 225 if the shot came from the window on the sixth floor. She has been in correspondence with the surveyor of Dealey Plaza and has as a result her own very individual theories of where the shots came from and their number etc! Lillian also supplied me with the James Fox UPI story you spoke of; I thought it most interesting, especially in view of the fact that Lillian feels someone was spread-eagled on top of the station wagaon Holland describes in his testimony. Censored film clips, or edited(sic) photos or motion pictures showing the possible assassins are perhaps the ones now available from UPI that you mentioned. Lillian makes clear that these new films showing people in the monument area are not the discoveries of Dave Lifton but quite separate films! I suggest if you don't know who has them you write to her directly.

Everyone here is disappointed with the Epstein book and your remarks about his being the "creature of the staff members" seems rather harsh but demonstrably true! Mrs. Meagher is very hurt about our lack of enthusiasm which is now even more pronounced as a result of hearing the Mike Wallace interview with Ed. Such evasive and withdrawing response to the leading questions of Wallace must come under the heading of something stronger than mere "shyness". We were further disenchanted to find no statement on Oswald's presumed innocense in the TMO review of "Inquest" which she wrote. It was largely an uncritical blurb of the kind the publisher might hand out. We do feel, however, that it has, perhaps, stimulated interest in your own "Whitewash" which is most welcome. And in another very important way reopened the discussion of the case itself. My own feelings, however, are that the Sauvage book should have been the first one of the hardbound books to appear. Epstein has now made it difficult for people like yourself to present a rather comprehensive view of what the real import of the assassination and the subsequent activity of the Commission.

We've let our bookstores know that the jobber has copies of your study of the case so we are now hoping to see it displayed on the counters of the various stores!

Let me know when you want the money for the exhibits from the Archives. I think it unlikely they would send anything directly to me at your request. Especially since I've not published. You might jeopardize yourself by "circulating documents". You could just get duplicates and send them yourself. We'll pay for your parking and xeroxing expenses of course.

Best wishes,

Bill O'Connell

William R. O'Connell
4175 Stansbury Ave.,
Sherman Oaks, Calif.

P.S. Thanks so much for the extract from Books. The photo I was referring to if from the Detroit News article and is a photo taken much earlier along the parade route. So it's probably a commission inspired "plant"!