

Dear Dave,

10/30/94

The fact checker is correct in quoting Posner as saying (325) that the spectrographic analysis of the curbstone "smear" disclosed "traces of lead and traces of antimony." His end note cites Shaneyfelt's testimony at 15700. There are many problems with this, beginning with the fact that those words do not appear on that page of the testimony and that on that page Shaneyfelt did not testify to the results of the test at all!

What ~~come~~ comes closest to what Posner says is Redlich's reading of the August, not July, Hoover report to the Commission, 8/12/64. The words he reads are identical with the excerpt from the Gallagher notes published in PM, page 458. "traces" does not apply to the lead. This reflects Posner's ignorance aside from his undependability. Bullet cores are mostly of lead. And in Posner version they are only of lead and antimony, despite his misuses of "traces" about lead. I also publish Gallagher's notes on a spectrographic ~~on~~ analysis of that bullet, page 449, which Posner has. There are 12 elements in it in and as I recall four are in the jacket, eight in the core.

So, ignorant about the subject on which he pretends unique expertise, Posner also cannot be trusted on what he has within quotation marks.

He also knows from PM that the curb did have a hole in it. I print that picture.

Checking him out almost invariably shows something wrong. So much so that I stopped checking him out. Would have taken too long to do it completely.

You may want to remember one of the earlier ones I checked, his stating in his first chapter that three witnesses say that on arrest Oswald "smirked." To this Posner gives a special meaning it did not have in any event. But I checked those sources and not a single one of them said that! Not one of his only sources said what he says they said.

1/ ~~Posner substituted~~ "traces" for "essentially" relating to the lead.

With his pretended expertise he should have known that spectrographic analysis then was sensitive enough to detect as little as one part per million. He had to know that the cores hold more than two elements and that the test had to detect them. That he is not honest is not new but this is pretty glaring a ~~clear~~ demonstration of abysmal ignorance, unless it is attributed to his omnipresent dishonesty. I go into all of this in PM, which I repeat he had and used.