Dear Hal, 2/10/97

Enclosed is a transcript of the LBJ-Russell phone conversation of 9/18/64. That was the day Russell forced the executive session over his refusal to agree with the single-bullet theory that was invention, not a theory. The elisions are where he wandered off the subject. Jerry McKnight did the transcript. I gave him the tape I got, belatedly, from the LBJ Library. First they sent me a wrong one. If you use this feel free to use anything else I've done on it.

Whether or not you want to use it, and if you do, by all means do, this gets to what kind of demon investigator Edward J. Epsteink is. He was my lead on Russell's disagreement! It is in Inquest. And he could not follow it up. Or worse, would not.

On the Groden transcript, I hope your silence is not from any health problem. Or one from the incredibly bad weather you people have been having. If I am not going to get any more I'd like to know so I can wind up what I've done on that overall matter. If I'm going to get more I'd like to know so I won't wipe that out and then have corrections to make, or additions.

How those Simpson lawyers latched onto Groden still is provocative and I would, if possible, like to know,

Best,

Transcript of Phone Conversation Between LBJ and Senator Richard Russell on 9/18'64

LBJ: Hello

RR: Yes, sir.

LBJ: Well your always leaving town. You must not like it up here.

RR: Well you left. I figured if you got out of town that the country could get along a whole lot better without me then it could you.

LBJ: I don't know.

RR: So I got out. No, that damn Warren Commission business whopped me down. So we got through today and I just . . . . You know what I did. I went and got on the plane and came home and I didn't even have a toothbrush and I didn't bring bring a shirt. I got a few little things here. I didn't even have my pills, my antihistamine pills to take care of my emphysema.

LBJ: Well you ought to take another hour and go on and get your clothes.

RR: No, no. Well they was trying to prove that the same bullet that hit Kennedy first was the one that hit Connally, went through him, went through his hand, his bone and into his leg, and everything else. Just a lot of stuff there. I couldn't hear all the evidence and cross-examine all of them. But I did read the record and so I just . . . I don't know. I was the only fella there that even pratically suggested any change whatever and what the staff got up. I. . . this staff business always scares me. I like to put my own views down.

LBJ: Well, what difference does it make which bullet got Connally?

RR: Well it don't make much difference. But they said that they believe, the the Commission believes that the same bullet that hit Kennedy hit Connally. Well I don't believe it.

LBJ: I don't either.

RR: So I could'nt sign it. I said that Governor Connally testified directly to the contrary and I am not going to approve of that.

I finally made them say that there was a difference in the Commission on that. Part of them believed that it was'nt so.

And of course if that fella was accurate enough to hit Kennedy in the back with one shot, and knock his head off with the next one, when his head was leaning up against his wife's head and not even wound her, Why he didn't miss completely with that third shot. According to that theory, he not only missed the whole automobile but he missed the street. Well that man is a good enough shot to put two bullets into Kennedy, he didn't miss the ole automobile nor the street.

LBJ: What's the [word missed] of the whole thing? What's it state: That Oswald did it and he did it for any reason?

RR: Well he was a general misanthropic fella. He never been satisfied any where he was on earth. In Russia or here; and he had a desire to get his name in history and all. . . .

I don't think you will be displeased with the report. It's too long. But it's [missing] volumes.

LBJ: Unanimous?

RR: Yes, sir. I tried my best to get in a dissent. But they came around and traded me out of it by giving me a little ole thread of it . . . . .

--end of transcript--