

This absolutely contradicts Kersta's letter
to Rankin. Also, the diagrams are now
nowhere - no one claims to have them -
Archives, Bell, nor Kersta.

PM MP 215.6

May 22, 1971

Mr. Sam Pate
c/o Kalkhoff Pawn Shop
5032-A Lemmon Ave.
Dallas, Texas 75209

Dear Mr. Pate:

I have been doing much research into the assassination of President Kennedy for the past four years. Just recently, I learned--from documents in the National Archives--of a matter concerning you and an alleged tape recording of the assassination. The documents which the Archives have do not clear up many matters about the tape, its authenticity, plus other related matters. I was wondering if you might perhaps help me with some of the ambiguities, since there is really no other way for me to resolve them other than going to the source. I'd really appreciate it if you could answer my questions concerning this matter.

First, could you tell me exactly where you were positioned on that day at the time of the actual shooting. I get a different impression of your location from one document to the next. Also, if you were not in Dealey Plaza during the assassination, how long would you say it took you to get there afterwards from where you were?

Some of the documents say that the news tape coverage by you used on the record "Four Days that Shocked the World" is not completely authentic and that it consists of tape you were asked to make several days after the assassination. There are several questions about this. First, could you tell me who asked you to make the tape after you were dismissed from KBOX? On that tape, just what did you do? Or, what was it that you were requested to record on the new tape?

In connection with this, could you tell me what you taped that was authentic and contemporaneous? I imagine you must have obtained much recording in Dealey Plaza and I'd like to know what you got there.

The first FBI interview with you states that you "voluntarily appeared at the Dallas FBI office." I'd like to know why you went to the FBI at this time. Also, were you ever contacted by the FBI after this? If so, for what purpose?

I hope this does not put you out in any way. I certainly do not wish to inconvenience you. But I would greatly appreciate it if you could help me with these matters.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks,

Howard Roffman
8829 Blue Grass Rd.
Phila., Pa. 19152



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May 6, 1971

Mr. Howard Roffman
8829 Blue Grass Road
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19152

Dear Mr. Roffman:

It is somewhat misfortunate that your researching the Warren Commission report archives is occurring so late. My participation in the analysis of the tape recording which you refer to was performed during my tenure at the Bell Telephone Laboratories. Upon my retirement, any reports or spectrogram exhibits were left by me in the Bell Laboratories files. The only information that I can give you, therefore, is that which I am able to recollect from memory.

The magnetic tape from which I made my analysis was a tape recording that was made by a Dallas radio station's news announcer who was at the scene and describing the passing of the President's entourage. During the recording of his commentary, the assassination took place and there were recorded on his commentary tape the reports of shot-type noises. My recollection of my analyses of these noises at the request of the Warren Commission was as follows:

There were three distinct, sharp, rifle shot-type noises evident on quantized spectrograms which I made of the questioned sections of the tape. Because of the spectral energy content of the three primary noises, it was my opinion that they were the result of originating rifle shots. There were also three other short duration shot-type sounds whose



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Mr. H. Roffman

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spectral density contents were radically different from the primary sounds, were of lower intensity and followed in exact time sequence the primary, in my opinion, rifle shots. Because of the exact time lapse sections of the secondary sounds, I gave it as my opinion that they were echoes of the primary shots. It was also an opinion, not scientifically supported, that the primary shot noises were rifle shots and not pistol shots or other explosions because of their spectral characteristics.

I don't remember the name of the radio station, the commentator or how long in time the tape ran. I reported only on what I was able to discern from the tape submitted to me by the Warren Commission.


I think that your impression that shots fired within a short time would not be distinguishable as two individual shots in our analyses is in error. The spectrograph is capable of differentiating between the initiating of sounds to within one-thousandth of a second.

I have no knowledge of any investigations or if there were any by any other agency in relation to the tape recording you refer to.

In my recollection I did prepare illustrations of the spectrograms supporting my opinion regarding my findings to the Warren Commission. What their history was beyond this point is not in my knowledge.

In conclusion, I repeat that I am sorry that I cannot be of more help and had to rely solely on my recollection.

Very truly yours,


L. G. Kersta
President

LGK:fmk