

Dear Jim,

5/8/97

For your own understanding as well as for what you communicate in what you write it is important to know that Hoover only rarely wrote the letters he signed. This can't be detected from the originals, as what was sent to the Commission, but it can usually and easily be doped out on the file copies. So, yes, another trip is indicated.

It is probable that I have all those in which you are interested. They can't be located through both Dallas indexes. I do not know if you used the larger one but I'm sure you did not use the smaller ^{one} ~~one~~ and that may be of more value to you.

Both of those Dallas indexes are at the same place. You know about the one on names, the larger one. Before that there is the document index. It is of only two file drawers.

I think you should be prepared with a list of the documents that interest you, probably in chronological order. From these indexes you can get their file numbers. Probably most of them are in the headquarters files but because we do not know where and because some may not be it will probably be best to check them in the processing worksheets that were annotated to specify where the FBI says they were "previously processed." If there is ~~no~~ no such indication they will be in the proper order by serial in the Dallas file.

In practice the lab agents wrote the letters for Hoover's signature but in the name of the head of the lab. So, at the bottom, his name will appear along with the initials of the one actually wrote it, like LIS for Shaneyfelt.

You should ^{have} ~~have~~ trouble with Shaneyfelt 35. Have to go back to the testimony to try to make sense of it. But it is not from the same perspective and that alone justified questions about what he was up to. Besides which the Commission did not print color photos, which this is supposed to be. It used instead black and whites made from the color pictures by Shaneyfelt himself.

For the reports of those in ^{your} ~~the~~ next paragraph use the name index when you are here. It should tell you the number of the report or reports for each.

I do not remember the Jenkins memo of 11/24 but that business of convincing the public that it was Oswald alone comes from the Katzenbach memo dated 11/25 and written the day before. I think you have all versions of it.

The only closeup of the curb I have is what I publish and it was not that close. I do not now recall whether I used my own photo on that or the Archives' but either way there is a negative that can be enlarged. You can use mine or the Archives can enlarge part of that negative for you. Or you can take your own.

I do not recall the Kreutzer report on his Dallard interview but should

have it and the indexes should tell you where.

We'll have to go over the special FBI uses, meaning misuses that can be defended, of language. As on what that absence of copper means. It does not have to mean that the copper was separated from the iron core. It more likely means that no projectile caused that damage. Or to that spot on the curb.

As I believe I proved without question in Post Mortem.

Same for the NAAs. Which in secret the FBI had made and did not tell the Commission about.

But it is true that the increased sensitivity of the NAAs would have made no difference!

You draw the wrong conclusions. Neither represents the impact of any bullet as the FBI knew very well, thus the use of the language it used. It did not mean the FBI lied, which it did because it knew the truth. It does mean that knowing the truth the FBI deliberately deceived the Commission and lied to our history. With the Commission's knowing assent.

To cover its own ass.

Take your time and try to figure these things out. Do not take the FBI's word literally, as the examples of the curbstone and the clothing should teach you. It is necessary to work your way slowly and to understand correctly so you can write correctly and not be misled by them. But, once you begin to see these things it gets much easier and you come to anticipate them.

best, *Harold*

Curbstone picture: you can get the Archives to take the picture you want by telling them how close to get or how much to enlarge it. On the destruction of the spectro plate, the little and utterly undependable info we have is remote hearsay in CA 75-226 that the judge should never have accepted. But they also fear the FBI. Best way to have the FBI detest you is to display a lack of fear of it! Do not misunderstand this. I do not mean by showing contempt or being unpleasant or disagreeable. I never was even when as I rarely did I gave one or more of them hell. Just do not be unquestioning and do not ever take their unconfirmed work. They do lie all the time and they have their own ways of lying. But I've had one or two who were in strong opposition in the lawsuits tell me a few secrets and do that honestly. Depends on the individual. If you knew Farris Rockstall in Dallas before they fired him, I got the highest praises from him, in writing.

5/4/97

DEAR HAROLD AND LIL,

AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR YOU HOSPITALITY.

I HAVE ENCLOSED A TENTATIVE ROUGH DRAFT OF AN ITEM FOR MY BOOK. BEFORE I EXPAND ON IT I WOULD LIKE YOUR INPUT.

I AM HAVING A PROBLEM WITH SHANEYFELT EXH 35. IT IS SUSPOSED TO BE A CLOSE-UP OF THE MARK ON THE CURB. BUT LOOKS LIKE THE END OF THE SECTION OF CONCRETE ??????? CAN YOU HELP?

THE FBI HAD INTERVIEWS WITH MYSELF, ROYCE SKELTON, VIRGIE RACHLEY, BUDDY WALTHERS, JAMES UNDERWOOD, TOM DILLARD, OFFICERS HAYGOOD AND FOSTER AND OTHERS IN NOV AND DEC CONCERNING THE MISSED SHOT AND THE CURB. I CANNOT FIND THESE FBI REPORTS IN THE 26 VOLS. THE TESTIMONY YES, NO PROBLEM. THE ORIGINAL FBI REPORTS NO.

I FIND THE DAMAGE CONTROL VERY INTERESTING. DO YOU HAVE ANY OF THE REPORTS MENTIONED? FOR EXAMPLE; 2. JENKINS MEMO OF NOV 24: HOOVER SAYS OSWALD ALONE DID IT, BUREAU MUST "CONVINCE THE PUBLIC OSWALD IS THE REAL ASSASSIN".

I AM PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN SPECIAL AGENT KREUTZER'S REPORT ON INTERVIEW WITH TOM DILLARD.

FOR GODS SAKE DON'T GO DOWN STAIRS AND TRY TO FIND ANY OF THE ABOVE, JUST TELL ME IF YOU HAVE IT.

I SEE NOW I WILL NEED TO MAKE ANOTHER TRIP.

DID YOU HAVE SOME CLOSE-UPS OF THE CURB. MAG 5 OR BETTER IS WHAT I AM LOOKING FOR.

THERE'S MUCH MORE BUT CLOSE FOR NOW.

Jim
P.S. What info you have on
Destruction of Spectro Plate
of Curb by FBI

J. EDGAR HOOVER WRITES J. LEE RANKIN ON AUGUST 12, 1964 ABOUT THE LAB REPORT ON THE CURB.

THE ABSENCE OF COPPER PRECLUDES THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE MARK ON THE CURBING SECTION WAS MADE BY AN UNMUTILATED MILITARY-TYPE FULL METAL-JACKETED BULLET SUCH AS THE BULLET FROM GOVERNOR CONNALLY'S STRETCHER, C1, OR THE BULLET OR BULLETS REPRESENTED BY THE JACKET FRAGMENTS, C2 AND C3, FOUND IN THE PRESIDENTIAL LIMOSENE. FURTHER, THE DAMAGE TO THE CURBING WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH MORE EXTENSIVE IF A RIFLE BULLET HAD STRUCK THE CURBING WITHOUT FIRST HAVING STRUCK SOME OTHER OBJECT. THEREFORE, THIS MARK COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE FIRST IMPACT OF A HIGH VELOCITY RIFLE BULLET.

J. EDGAR HOOVER WRITES J. LEE RANKIN ON MARCH 18TH, 1964 TO ANSWER A QUESTION ABOUT THE LAB REPORT ON PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S SHIRT.

4. WOULD NEUTRON ACTIVATION ANALYSES SHOW IF A BULLET PASSED THROUGH THE HOLE IN THE FRONT OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S SHIRT NEAR THE COLLAR BUTTON AREA AND ALSO IF A BULLET PASSED THROUGH HIS TIE? NEUTRON ACTIVATION IS A SENSITIVE ANALYTICAL TECHNIQUE TO DETERMINE ELEMENTS PRESENT IN A SUBSTANCE. DURING THE COURSE OF THE SPECTROGRAPHIC EXAMINATIONS PREVIOUSLY CONDUCTED OF THE FABRIC SURROUNDING THE HOLE IN FRONT OF THE SHIRT, INCLUDING THE TIE, NO COPPER WAS FOUND IN EXCESS OF THAT PRESENT ELSEWHERE IN UNDAMAGED AREAS OF THE SHIRT AND TIE. THEREFORE, NO COPPER WAS FOUND WHICH COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO PROJECTILE FRAGMENTS.

IT IS NOT FELT THAT THE INCREASED SENSITIVITY OF NEUTRON ACTIVATION ANALYSES WOULD CONTRIBUTE SUBSTANTIALLY TO THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE ORIGIN OF THIS HOLE AND FRAYED AREA.

SIGNED J. EDGAR HOOVER

IF MR. HOOVER IS CORRECT IN BOTH OF THESE STATEMENTS, THEN BOTH THE BULLET THAT HIT THE CURB AND THE FIRST SHOT THAT HIT PRESIDENT KENNEDY WERE NOT MILITARY-TYPE FULL METAL-JACKETED BULLETS SUCH AS THE BULLET FROM GOVERNOR CONNALLY'S STRETCHER. EITHER MR. HOOVER IS WRONG IN HIS 3/18/64 LETTER TO MR. RANKIN OR TWO TYPES OF AMMUNITION WERE USED DURING THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY. THIS CAUSES BIG PROBLEMS WITH THE TRUTH AND VALIDITY OF THE WARREN REPORT. THIS COULD OPEN PANDORA'S BOX.

THE MARCH 18TH, 1964 LETTER IS IN VOL XX, PAGE 2.