

December 6, 1969

Dear Harold,

This is in response to your last big package of letters. Hope it doesn't sound too piecemeal but I'm just making comments as I see things in the letters.

Yours of 11/28: I am going to make all my Panel info available to you on a confidential basis. I will soon get photostats of all the letters and let you go to work on them. Russel Morgan provided the best facts; Russel Fisher is a scoundrel--a lying bastard--he fell right into the trap I set in my original letter and it is his throat ~~was~~ that I chose to jump down with no reply. William Carnes really said a mouthful while meaning to say nothing--I tried to weasel a full confirmation from him of what he inadvertently disclosed to me and you should see how the bastard shut up. Moritz is out of town for a while.

I got a reply from ol' J. Edgar on the shirt slits. It's another cryptogram. Will send a photostat to you to "solve."

Thank you for thinking of me with the Curry book. Much of the pictures thrill my minutiae geared mind. I never went for Newcomb's train delusions for very basic reasons which he apparently missed. I will probably contact Gary for a copy or just a look at Muchmore. There's other stuff about her film too which I must see as with Nix. By the way, if you still doubt that JFK head moves forward at 313, look at the Nix frames Tink prints. I'm sure that's Babushka lady. The last I had seen of her before was in Bell where she is running up the steps into the parking lot, camera in hand. She probably recorded everything--assass, aftermath such as activity on knoll, in parking lot, you name it.

11/29 to Dick--his observations are good but see the carbon I'm enclosing.

11/29 to me: The superimposition was perfect but my observations are incomplete. I must get to the Archives for at least one day and view the consequential slides under my stereoscopic viewer. The movement of the car provides a fantastic stereo base and such analysis has never been done. I was recently able to do it with two unimportant frames and you'd think you were there looking into the car with your own two eyes. With the color slides, the effect will be indescribable. We will be able to see things never before seen in Z. The Connally trajectories are measured not only on the coat angles but general body angles. As Dick points out, these are not reliable since bone was struck but I disagree with the amount of deflection he thinks is possible. Yes, I'm sure Connally could have held his hat after the wrist was hit. He wasn't grabbing it, ~~it~~ was just hanging on his curled fingers. You could see this better with the superimposition.

Can't wait to get my hands on Finck's NO test. Dick is sending it soon. I'm sure I'll have plenty to say.

12/4 to me: Keep the picture. I'll try to make the others as soon as possible.

Interesting on the supplemental report. I have long been wary of it because only Humes signed it (only Humes wrote the autopsy report--the others signed their names to it). I am thoroughly lost by your last paragraph. I take it to refer

to the original holograph and Burkley's signature. I should mention that I have no reason to doubt that the Xeroxes are from that draft with the signature masked. In Oswald in NO you cite many documents where this has been done. The copies in the Archives seem far removed anyway. At any rate, I am interested in what you are referring to in the final paragraph.

I believe you state somewhere that you are pretty sure where the bullet hitting JFK back struck. I believe I gave you my theory. I am very wary of suspicions that any back bones were hit. From what I can gather, the bullet hit right above the border of the first rib probably at the level of or slightly below the 7th cervical vertebra. Note the dimension given by Panel--5cm. from midline of body. That's damned close to the spine, too close for a path through the neck from the 6th floor. By the way, there were copper traces to the coat and shirt in the back--I had thought only to the coat. This bullet was on a downward course as indicated by the zone of abrasion around the hole. If it penetrated much further than an inch, it would have gone into the pleural cavity and the test. is explicit that it didn't. It must have lodged in the thick trapezius muscle as is indicated by the probing--that is Finck's probing with a wire probe. Dick suggests that the muscles would change their positions and resist probing but I doubt that for I doubt whether the bullet went further than through the one solid muscle. One thing--would a low velocity bullet(it must have been to lodge in the back) cause coagulation necrosis of the tissues at the margins? The presence of fiber particles as revealed by Boswell in Sun article might indicate a low velocity. I wonder if a good portion of the bullet which entered the ant. neck could have dropped down the trachea into the lung after it exploded into the trachea. Our knowledge of the size and number of the fragments is not sufficient to account for a whole bullet so we might hold that as a possibility.

It is 2:30 in the morning and I am bushed--spent the whole day taking dippy college entrance tests. I wanted to get off this letter before some of the things escaped my mind though.

Still,

*Howard*