

3/22/96

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

It was a pleasure to speak with you last week. Pursuant to our conversation I have enclosed a copy of the cassette tape I spoke of. I have permission to share it with you.

I believe the tape has tremendous significance. It took 6 months to arrange a chance to speak with the gentleman. I am friends with his son, a physician. By the time I was able to speak with him he did not want to talk to me. His wife, who can be heard in the background, kept urging him to leave. I had to wait to affirm his name otherwise I believe he might have stopped talking.

I have been an attorney for 18 years. What I believed added to his credibility was that he did not continue to follow the assassination. He is wrong about things one would expect; i.e.

the intact windshield at Greenfield Village.
He did not know that a windshield was
later presented as being the one from Dallas.

I have rigorously studied the assassination
in a serious manner over the past 12 years.

As I indicated I have the highest
respect for your work and I truly look
forward to the honor of meeting you.

I hope to make arrangements in the very near
future to spend a couple of days in your area
and to meet with you at your convenience

~~as~~ as your schedule and well being allows.

I would appreciate you keeping the tape
confidential. Again, I wish you well, and I
will be contacting you. I have enclosed an old
resume in order that you may be more familiar
with who I am.

Truly

Doug Melton

9775 Springwood Dr.
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

(O) 616 385-6066

(H) 616 372-142

DOUGLAS E. WELDON

~~3620 Lancaster Drive~~ 9775 Springwood Dr.
Kalamazoo, Michigan ~~49006~~ 49009

Home: 616 372-1437
Office: 616 385-6066

Education

Juris Doctor, Thomas M. Cooley Law School
Lansing, Michigan 1978

Master of Arts in Educational Leadership, Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, Michigan 1984

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science/Sociology/Education, Olivet College
Olivet, Michigan 1975

Experience

Kalamazoo County Juvenile Court, Kalamazoo, Michigan 1985 - present
Attorney-Referee

* Serve as hearing officer in cases of juvenile delinquency, child abuse and neglect

Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan 1987 - present
Adjunct Professor

* Taught in Department of Criminal Justice

* Currently teaching graduate level School Law in Department of Educational Leadership

Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, Kalamazoo, Michigan 1982 - 1985
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

* Assignments in District, Circuit, and Juvenile Court

* Piloted program in vertical prosecution of child abuse cases

Olivet High School, Olivet, Michigan 1978 - 1981
Teacher

* Taught Government and Geography

* Coached high school athletics for seven years

Weldon & Fleming, Olivet, Michigan 1978 - 1982
Partner

* Engaged in general practice of law

Other Activities

* Speaker at seminars, schools, and universities on topics of child abuse, schools and law

* Currently on faculty of Michigan Judicial Institute

* Member of Board of Directors,

Kalamazoo Child Abuse & Neglect Council since 1983

* Active in Arcadia Neighborhood Association (President 1989 & 1990)

* Member of various local bar committees

* Member of Kalamazoo Citizens Committee since 1989

* Served on various ad hoc Kalamazoo City Committees

* Member of Kalamazoo Track Club

Altering the body.

From Dallas to Bethesda, the President's body was in the custody of Secret Service and navy officials. Also in the custody of the Secret Service was the President's clothing and the Presidential limousine.* Both bullet fragments were found in the car.

If the body was altered and false ammunition planted in the car, it was difficult to believe that Secret Service officials were not involved in the plot. To think otherwise, one had to believe that inside the Secret Service responsible officials and agents were themselves the victims of a deception so perfectly executed it never came to their attention.

From the standpoint of research, the problem was separating the good guys from the bad guys. It seemed unreasonable to believe the Secret Service was involved en masse, but seemed just as unlikely that not a single agent or official was involved.

The "getaway," the focusing of the police investigation on the sniper's

* The record contains evidence indicating the limousine's windshield may have been switched. At Parkland Memorial Hospital, journalist Richard Dudman reported that he and a companion noted the windshield had a hole in it.⁹⁰

Corroboration of Dudman's contemporaneous account came from interviews, conducted in 1971 by an assassination researcher, with two Dallas motorcycle officers, Sgt. Stavis Ellis and Patrolman H.R. Freeman. Both were in the escort preceding the President's car, and then went to the hospital. Asked to describe the car at the hospital, Sgt. Ellis volunteered, "There was a hole in the left front windshield." "You sure that was a hole?" asked the interviewer, who suggested it might have been some lesser kind of damage. "It was a hole," replied Ellis. "You could put a pencil through it. . . . You could take a regular standard writing pencil . . . and stick [it] through there." Ellis recalled that at Parkland, when he commented on the hole, "Some Secret Service agent ran up [and] said, 'That's no bullet hole. That's a fragment!' It wasn't a damn fragment. It was a hole." Ellis' account was corroborated by Officer Freeman. He too volunteered that at the hospital he saw a hole in the windshield, and he was emphatic about what he saw: "[I was] right beside it. I could of touched it. . . . It was a bullet hole. You could tell what it was."⁹¹

The limousine was flown to Washington and driven to the White House garage, where it was examined by a five-man team from the FBI Laboratory. Secret Service agent Charles Taylor, Jr., who witnessed that examination, wrote in his report, "Of particular note was the small hole just left of center in the windshield."⁹¹

The next week, a windshield was removed from the automobile and stored in the White House garage. In March 1964, the Secret Service sent a windshield to the FBI Laboratory, which determined that it contained no hole, only damage on the outside surface. The inside surface was smooth.⁹² I called this the "hole/no-hole" conflict, and the question it raised was whether the windshield on the limousine, on November 22, 1963, was the same windshield sent to the FBI Laboratory in March 1964.

The record is further clouded by a January 6, 1964 letter written by Secret Service Chief Rowley, transmitting Taylor's report to the Warren Commission. Rowley made no mention of the agent's assertion that the windshield had a hole. He did, however, state that Special Officer Davis and Special Agent Geis, neither of whom were mentioned in Taylor's report, were present when the automobile arrived, that both ran their hands over the windshield, and that the outside surface was "smooth and

A Search for New Evidence

nest (and on a "suspect" fitting Oswald's description), and the alteration of the body—these were the three principal tasks the conspirators had to accomplish after the shooting. If body alteration was part of the plan, then the overall plot must have appeared like this to someone on the inside:

1. a preselected patsy—someone who would be eliminated afterward—would be maneuvered into position at the location which would become the "crime scene";
2. plans would be made to murder the President as he passed the "crime scene";
3. evidence would be planted at the "crime scene" so that the local authorities would be deceived, and arrive at the conclusion that the preselected patsy was the assassin.

The most important part of such a plot was that the body would be altered, and false ammunition planted, so that the autopsy report, the "best

unbroken."⁹³ Thus, Rowley's letter contradicted, without explanation, a significant allegation in the Secret Service report it transmitted.

Still another twist. On November 27, 1963, shortly before the windshield was removed from the limousine, it was examined by Secret Service Agent Roy Kellerman, who ran his hand over the outside surface and found it to be smooth. The damage, he testified, was on the inside surface. Kellerman believed this indicated a bullet struck the safety glass from the inside. But in fact, according to testimony later given by FBI Lab experts, safety glass breaks in the opposite fashion. If a bullet does not strike with enough force to pierce the windshield, a shot from behind will cause damage to the front surface, and vice versa.⁹⁴ The windshield sent to the FBI Laboratory had the damage on the front surface only; the inside (back) surface was smooth.⁹⁵ In short, that windshield constituted evidence of a shot from behind.

Testifying before the Commission in March 1964, Kellerman was asked to run his hand over the inside surface, the surface he believed was damaged on November 27, 1963. He commented: ". . . it feels rather smooth today."⁹⁶

In February 1972, assassination researcher Robert P. Smith interviewed Bill Ashby, crew leader of the Arlington Glass Company team that removed the windshield on November 27, 1963. It was Ashby's recollection that the inside surface of the windshield was damaged.⁹⁷

If the witnesses—Dudman, his companion, Sgt. Ellis, Officer Freeman, and Secret Service Agent Taylor—who saw a hole in the windshield on Friday are correct, and if Kellerman and Ashby are correct, that would suggest two windshield switches occurred: First a windshield with a hole was switched for one with no hole, but with damage to the "wrong" side (i.e., "wrong" from the standpoint of a scenario in which all shots were supposed to come from behind); and then—a second switch—a windshield with damage on the rear (inside) surface was replaced by one damaged only on the forward (outside) surface.

The contradiction between the FBI and Secret Service records on the question of windshield damage is epitomized by a clash between the FBI Supplemental Report, dated January 13, 1964, and Secret Service Chief Rowley's letter to the Commission, dated January 6, 1964. FBI Director Hoover reported: ". . . the windshield was cracked. . . ."⁹⁸ Chief Rowley wrote: ". . . there is no hole or crack through the windshield."⁹⁹

was removed in Detroit 2 days earlier