

10/4/71

Dear Js,

Having tired from working hillside wet grass, I've been reading the clips sent 9/30 as I removed them from envelope. Having come to those of 8/24 from the NYT & SFC and two interesting unanswered? is the 3rd graph of the Times story, I decided to make some notes that might be informative to you and thus also to me and others.

From here on I'll be commenting as I read to save time. Can lead to misunderstanding.

Jackson had, handled and used the pistol. Impossible without leaving prints. with grips off, chances are better, not worse, because grips are rough-finished, the clip this exposed quite smooth. The pistols and finished well, so the only questions are whether the prints were clear or smudged and whether they were identified. I have seen nothing but the claim that Jackson used the pistol. Perhaps he did, but there has not been even the claim to proof, aside from prison-guard allegations of having been him with a pistol.

This gun was used to shoot two prisoners in the back of the head. If it happened, the nature of the evidence would depend on a number of factors, one the character and design of the ammo and another the point of impact. In turn, such things determine the nature of the injuries. If soft or bullets without hardened cases were used, there should have been extensive fragmentation, including of dustlike particles that would glow in X-rays and that, by the modern tests, could be tied irrefutably to each other and to the manufacture of the ammo. If there was not extensive fragmentation, then a ~~precision~~ ~~enough~~ ~~to~~ ~~permit~~ ~~ballistics~~ ~~identification~~ should have been piece or pieces large found. And all the bits in the bodies save the dust-size could and should have been removed. One of the curious things here is that there has been no reference to the nature and results of these autopsies. The tests should have include neutron-activation, which is more definitive than the older and less sensitive spectrographic analysis.

Rifle bullet hitting Jackson's clothes before it killed him left identifiable of microscopic traces on his clothing, which is what led to my early apprehension that something would happen to the clothing, as eventually you sent a clip showing it did.

If Jackson has been stripped, then the ammo in the pistol had to have been with it when he got it, which can be limiting on evidence that may later be alleged.

"Another officer discovered the gun in his hair"-Parks. Pretty wild and useful in future not to discredit Parks and officers. And if the lawyer interview was private and Jackson not being paraded around naked, even if the wig would have concealed the weapon, there seems to be no reason for not having preferred a pocket or the belt. If it was in the hair is is not possible that J. "seized the gun before the officer could get it."

Released autopsies: texts potentially valuable if you know anyone who has or can get without too much trouble. I do not presume the only errors are those reported.

"Outside help expected"? What? Tanks? Gas attack? Nonsense. The only kind that could have been expected is not relevant to this context-transportation.

Why waste precious ammo after throats are slashed?

If this is accurate reporting, there is more error in this first autopsy report, like one broken rib only.

Too much of this makes so little sense it can't be explained away as the normal emotional reaction to great stress. The DeChon story fortifies this. In its quote within quotes it is helpful: it limits the possibilities of the cause of death to a single bullet whose trajectory is impossible. Rather, path. It is specific in saying a fragment was recovered from the ankle.

Cook: has done great things in the past and this is undoubtedly a good work. He or the reviewer takes a few liberties with fact. They are political and the kind Cook would make, having to do with who is a Communist or, indeed, what constitutes being. This part of that period of it interests you was covered very well by Sherrill in Drug Store Cowboy. Communist was everybody opposed to HHH, for example, or his closests and CIA-connected pals, Kampelman and Kirkpatrick. They are the same ones who elected HHH. As he tires, has the troubles all have, he begins to be less dependable in some ways, especially where there may be ego involvement. He has done several quite disreputable things there is no point in taking time with, going back to 1966, when Ranparts wouldn't touch his JFK assassination stuff. It was bad. None of this is to suggest that there is any flaw in the doctrine detectable from the review. If it suggests that McCarthy was alone in his business, there is such error. Even Bobby was part of it. But McC was a Johnny-Come-Lately to it, merely infringing on the copyright of others.

Reading it gave me a great idea for a great Agnew story. Hope I see the reporter who would undertake it.

McC also attacked the press. One of his first victims was Cedric Belfrage. One of his earliest targets NYT and TV. Agnew, in fact, has done no more than improvise on a theme by McC. Variations are slight. He is just aiming at limited target. The difference between a no-choke shotgun and a rifle.

It is wrong to say McC had a one-man show. Even Ike helped him.

I presume it is because they met his definition for liberal that there is this excessive estimate of the far-East men in State. I am confident other countries had men as expert and more in number.

Very glad to have this better picture of the book.

Desire shootout: very glad to know the IACP condemned. Someday I'll want that report. I can imagine those cops shooting at each other with no trouble.

Very good question on the number in the Kaplan mug shot. I don't know the answer and don't recall the date of arrest. However, I think he was convicted before 1963. You are correct on the date of the Vidal murder - if it is Vidal who was murdered.

I believe I told you I was asked to collaborate on a book, by a Mexican writer. Decline. She has lengthy interviews, reports some with unnamed lawyers other than those identified in US press and with JK. I doubt her/Garrison/Turner + concept this is part of JFK case, but I also have a tip about one Jack McInnon, CIA. Is he known to you? Ripley did a good job. I am almost certain I have some info on the McCreeery aviation outfit in the appendix of COUP, partly from investigations by the FBI and Secret Service of a minuteman threat vs JFK. I've forgotten the name of the major interest hence can't check pinpoint now. Includes cropdusting activities.

Notes on Van Deman very interesting. San Diego makes me wonder was he Marines? The quote from the Bureau is irrelevant. Their reports could have been requested by and supplied directly to him if he had the proper assignment and he could have gotten them through military channels. The evasiveness makes me suspect they supplied them to him. That story was unreported here...Review Inside will be returned as soon as I copy. ...Lil calls to supper. Best, and many thanks,