

MEMO. - HOLT SCHUMER

1/10/68

Dear Dick,

Many thanks for your letter, of 1/6 and valuable enclosures. I will forward them today with comments. For example, it was Liebler who deposed Altgens. Possibly another had been intended and Liebler took over. This is what happened with Odio. I have already recommended him as a witness (both, in fact).

The Ruby book thing is for real, only very old and probably valueless. I have spoken to the reporter who did the original story. I have suggested that we might add value to the material when we examine it and would do so in return permission to use, if necessary, in trial (which is extremely remote). I have heard nothing further and will initiate nothing further now. It also included many of his check stubs and other records, even a stat of his discharge. Several boxes of old records.

I am glad to get the NYT clip on the book "Farewell America". I do not share your view of it and its backers, tried to warn me away from it at the very outset, regard it as part of a major play against us, including a very significant penetration of the office, and encourage you to put on paper and give me as fast as you can anything and everything you have, know or suspect. Consider the possibility that it may be used as a move for a mistrial and you will see the potential. Please regard this as a matter of the utmost urgency. If I am wrong, and you have no idea how confident I am that I am not, nothing will be lost, no one hurt. But IF I am right, and I know what I cannot communicate that is so persuasive I am not, any scrap of information, no matter how vague, can be so important, particularly in an emergency, courtroom situation, I do regard the whole thing as intelligence, but not French intelligence. I think it is CIA. I have from the first. No one would listen. Now it may be too late. There are a few scraps in the "Times" piece. If you have time, please call Peter Kihss, ask him if he wrote the piece and whether he did or not communicate the above to him and ask him if he has or can get any more data for me. Caution him against any expression of my belief to anyone but Salisbury. If Salisbury is in any way interested, I will, at the right time, tell him what I know.

Again, thanks.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

37 Harvard Drive
Hartsdale, N. Y. 10530
January 6, 1969

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 7
Frederick, Md. 21701

Dear Harold:

Enclosed are:

1. NBC Book - There was a President (under separate cover)
2. Notes on my interview with Altgens
3. Copy of N. Y. Times article on Farewell America.
4. Suggested list of Dealey Plaza witnesses
5. Copy of N. O. States Item story about Ruby's diary

Good luck.

Dick

P.S. For security, I'm sending copies to the safe address in N. O.

What do you make of the Ruby diary story?

P.S.S. The book was \$12.00 as you can see from the tag on the back.

Notes on Interview and Dinner with James (Ike) Altgens, Dallas Texas
Friday, January 12, 1968. Also present, G. Nicholson

Main impression of him was a four-flusher who brags and exaggerates. He talked up the restaurant he took us to as though it were the Four Seasons. The place was empty, the food was awful, and it was worse than a roadhouse.

I showed him my display of the seven photos he had taken at the time of the assassination in Dealey Plaza. He vaguely remembered the four he had not been able to remember and said he had told the AP people in Dallas that there were more, but they kept insisting there were only three (1-4, 1-6 and 1-7).

He admitted that he just didn't know what to do with his camera, wandering across Elm and up and down the knoll and back across Elm. He said "I look pretty stupid, don't I," when we showed him the Rickerby photos of himself camera in hand, but not taking pictures.

He explained the collection of photos taken later in the day, about 5 p.m., by saying his office sent him down to establish the place he was standing when he took 1-6. He took a series of photos (Altgens 2-4 through 4-18) from that spot facing the TSBD, the center of the Plaza, and the grassy knoll.

He did not know who took AP 1-7 #s 110 through 116 but said he would try to find out.

He had checked the AP files in Dallas and had come up with the following names and addresses of photographers whose pictures AP had purchased at the time of the assassination.

Al Volkland, 715 East 8th Avenue
Don Moorman, 8230 Lovett Street
JFK and Jackie in car after shooting
David Miller, 7239 Kenny Lane
Took JFK on Stemmons showing foot
Justin Newman, 943 Deerwood Drive
Took JFK after assassination

Also, the FBI told Altgens that they had examined his photo (1-6) and were able to identify every person in the photo but had overlooked the photographer. This was in the summer of 1964. It seemed to Altgens to be a weak excuse for not interviewing him earlier. The Warren Commission lawyer who took his deposition told him the same thing. It was supposed to have been Liebeler but he couldn't make it. The FBI told Altgens that the 19-year-old boy who had the seizure on Houston Street just before the assassination recovered in the

ambulance on the way to the hospital. They said he refused treatment and left the ambulance on arrival at the Parkland Hospital without entering and without being identified. However, the FBI tracked him down and knew who he was. Altgens said the ambulance was just going under the overpass as Kennedy approached Houston and Main.

From DICK SPITZBERG, 37 Harvard Drive, Hartsdale, N.Y. 10530

Selection of Witnesses

The problem, of course, in selecting witnesses in connection with the conspiracy to assassinate and the actual assassination of President Kennedy, is that there are too many. The only way to narrow down the list for a court trial is to decide on what points are to be proved and then select a few witness, plus photographic and other materials to prove each point.

Here are a few points which could be proved in this fashion beyond the shadow of any doubt in the minds of a jury.

- | | <u>Evidence</u> |
|--|---|
| 1. JFK was behind a large oak tree from "Oswald's" window at the time of the first shot, and the angle of the shot was about 45° off line from the TSBD. | Willis & Betzner test. FBI reenactment photo. Zapruder film. Willis and Betzner photos. Plat map. |
| 2. The first shot came from the front. | Autopsy photos and X-Rays |
| 3. The fatal shot came from the front | Dr. Perry Test. Willis & Betzner photos. Zapruder, Ni x , Muchmore films. D. L. Jackson testimony & many others. Many witnesses. |
| 4. At least some shots came from the grassy knoll. | |
| 5. The shot that missed came from the Dal Tex Bldg. | Plat Map. Altgens & Underwood Photos. Negro on fire escape test. |
| 6. The knoll assassins ran from behind the wall into the parking lot and at least one drove away 1 minute later. | Martin film. Bell & Hughes films, Underwood footage (CBS). |
| 7. It is unlikely that <u>anyone</u> was in "Oswald's" window at the time of the shots. | Dillard & Similas photos. Hughes' movie. |
| 8. The three "tramps" are likely knoll assassins. | Allen, Beers, Smith photos and test. Harkness & Elkins test. |
| 9. Several "other" arrests took place and two "other" rifles were found within one hour of assassination. | Mentessana film, Willis 10 photo, Don Cook & Sandy Sanderson films and many others. |
| 10. Two men were with Oswald in Texas Theatre when he was arrested. They were thin white men. | Jim McCammon's test and photos. |

Following is a possible list of witnesses from which to choose.

Suggested List of Dealey Plaza Witnesses plus a few from Other Locations

Except
in his
position.
I agree.
I think he was
behind Altgens picture
because he was
135 m from JFK
See my
memo

See
my memo

D. L. Jackson, Motorcycle Police Officer - Jackson was the person closest to JFK when the fatal shot hit (except for Jackie). He was about 2-1/2 feet away, in front and just to JFK's right. He was the inside cycle cop on the right of JFK's car. Beverly Brunson uncovered Jackson's identity. He was not interviewed by anyone (FBI, Warren Commission) nor is he mentioned in any testimony by anyone in the 26 volumes. He is in the motorcade list. The fatal shot from the knoll must have grazed his helmet. I tried to find some trace of him in Dallas but could not, nor could Mrs. Ferrell or Arch Kimbrough.

Malcolm Summers - He was the falling man near Altgens on the south side of Elm Street. He was as close as anyone on the street to JFK at the time of the fatal shot, which he says came from the knoll.

Chaney, Motorcycle Police Officer - He was on the outside right beside JFK and was hit in face with material. He was to the rear of JFK at the time of the fatal shot by several feet.

Hargis, Motorcycle Police Officer - He was the inside cop on the left. He thought he ran up the knoll whereas photos show he didn't.

John and Mrs. Chism - They were standing right in front of the Stemmons freeway sign and within two feet of the man with the umbrella. They do not remember seeing the umbrella but they did think the shots came from the knoll.

Charles and Mrs. Hester - Key witnesses because they were standing very close to the Stemmons Freeway sign, believe the shots came from the knoll, and ran up the knoll to the steps of the Pergola and looked out through the back into the parking lot. No one ever asked Hester what he saw back there.

Jimmy Darnell, Photographer/Reporter from WBAP-Ft. Worth (NBC) - The photographers were completely overlooked by the Warren Commission. Yet they are important witnesses because they were professionals, and because their films confirm what they say. Darnell was in Camera Car 3 and took footage less than a minute after the fatal shot pointing his camera toward the grassy knoll. He ran up the knoll and into the parking lot with Roger Craig and can confirm Craig's testimony. He was shooting footage all the way. He also took footage of an important arrest, a heavy-set, middle-aged white man who was put in a police car at the corner of Houston and Elm. This was not Larry Florer, or Danny Arce or Charles Givens.

In fact, all of the professional photographers should be subpoenaed. They cannot only testify as to what happened and what their films show, but can also testify as to photographic disappearance or destruction, and failure of the Warren Commission to interview most of them even though they were all professionals on the scene.

They are:

Don Cook, KTVT - Dallas Independent - Now has his own company in Dallas. Took footage of arrest and extra rifle (same as Willis 10)

Sandy Sanderson - KRLD - CBS Dallas. Took same scene (Willis 10)

Jim Underwood - KRLD - CBS Dallas. In camera car three

Dan Owens - WBAP - Ft. Worth - NBC. Took grassy knoll, parking lot & Arrest.

David Weigman - NBC - Now in Washington, D.C. NBC office

Tom Craven - CBS. Now in Washington, D.C., CBS office

Malcolm Couch - WFAA - ABC Dallas. Now a minister in Texas

Ron Reiland - WFAA - ABC. Took Oswald in dark in Texas Theatre.

Tom Alyea - WFAA - ABC. Took rifle on sixth floor and scene of Plaza 30 seconds after fatal shot.

A.J. L'Hoste - WFAA - ABC Dallas. Now with Salvation Army in Dallas

Bob Jackson - Dallas Times Herald - In Camera Car 3. Something strange about him. When first interviewed he told me he took a photo coming up Houston St. Later he denied it. John Masiotta denied it also. I suspect he did and it shows the 6th floor window empty. Jackson testified that he saw the rifle in the window so he probably found out his photo contradicted his testimony. He should be asked under oath about that photo.

Henry Burrows - AP, Now AP Washington, D.C. He told me he took 2 photos on Houston Street from Camera Car 3 but never did see them.

Col. Stoughton - JFK's personal photographer from White House. He should really be subpoenaed because no one has ever talked to him. He was in Camera Car 2.

Palmer
has a reel
of his film
got from Braghe

INTERESTING
POINT.

Jim Murray - Black Star - No one ever interviewed him till I did. He is one of the most important witnesses and so are his photos starting three minutes after fatal shot.

Frank Canellare - UPI - in Camera Car 1 - on knoll - Very Important.

Tom Atkins - White House Photographer, still there - Important because President Johnson asked him to assemble a documentary using his own film plus others. He was in Camera Car 1 and ran up knoll. The documentary was viewed by Johnson and then buried in the JFK "Library" which to date is a collection of crates somewhere in Maryland. The man in charge of them denied there was such a film until I threatened to bring Atkins to the crates in person. However, I have never had time to press him to see it. (You know about this guy, Harold.) Maybe he and Atkins should both be subpoenaed.

Art Rickerby - Life Mag - In Camera Car 2. Still at Life.

Jim Altgens - Still at AP Dallas

Tom Dillard - Dallas Morning News - still there - in Camera Car 2

I CHECKED THIS OUT & REPORTED TO MOO. I DOUBT IT; DISAGREE ENTIRELY ABOUT THE TRAMP PIX.

Jack Beers - Dallas Morning News. Reached Dealey Plaza in 5 or 10 minutes. Took 3 tramps and old white haired white man under arrest in front of TSBD plus many other important photos. This guy and his boss Jack Krueger of DMN should really be subpoenaed. Between them they have successfully suppressed several important photos. They must know something.

William Allen - Dallas Times Herald - A good man to subpoena because he is now in business for himself in Little Rock, Arkansas, and has no loyalty to the Times Herald or John Masiotta there, who has tried to suppress Allen's and Jackson's photos. Allen, of course, took three photos of the three tramps plus Danny Arce and Charles Givens, plus Walthers and the FBI man picking up ? at the curb on Elm Street.

George Smith - Ft. Worth Star Telegram - Took 3 tramps. A cooperative witness as is the paper.

* * * * *

I think
possibly joining
a one of his group.

Man With Sign - The guy in Cancellare 1 with the sign saying "SOB Jack Kennedy" should be subpoenaed except we don't know who he is. He also appears in Zapruder, Couch and Murray's photos of Walthers picking up the ? from Elm Street curb.

THERE WERE
2, one on each
side of ELM.

Man With Umbrella - If we knew who he was, we'd have something. Perhaps one of the witnesses, if shown Willis 5 in color or Zapruder, will remember him.

Charles Brehm - He could be put on witness stand and reminded of his original statement about where the shots came from.

Marilyn Sitzman - With Zapruder on pedestal. Someone should ask her again about man #2 behind wall while she is looking at Willis 5 and Betzner 3 and last part of Zapruder film.

Abraham Zapruder - Same question plus, of course, how much did Life pay him and why.

Emmett Hudson - Show him Willis 5 and Betzner Nix and Moorman. See if he can remember a little more about man #2 and the two guys on the steps with him and his original belief about where the fatal shot came from.

Negro on Fire Escape - Someone from the 2nd floor office of Dal Tex (Mary Ferrell knows who they were) might identify this guy. He could tell about the shot which came out of the 2nd floor window under him.

Howard Brennan - Should put him under oath and show him frames of Zapruder film plus Dorman film where he is not looking up and show him Murray 1-3 which shows him looking up at Dal Tex building and ask him how come?

Hugh Betzner - Could be asked about seeing a pistol in JFK's car at time of shots.

Roger Craig - He was correct about everything. The photos verify what he says, even the fake secret service man who looks just like Bradley.

DISAGREE
M ALL POINTS
SEE MEMO.

Jim McCammon - One of his photos, not yet found, may show the two men who were with Oswald when he was arrested. McCammon is now in New York and would testify to this.

Dr. Perry - He could be shown himself on TV making the statement that the front neck wound was an entrance wound. This film is in Grinburg Library (ABC) in N. Y.

DISAGREE
ENTIRELY

NOT UNLESS
H. WAS ON SOUTH
SIDE PLAZA, OR
WHICH I HAVE NO
EVIDENCE.
SEE MY MEMO

Will Fritz - Jesse Curry and Police Officer who was in charge of booking arrested people on Friday afternoon, November 22. These are probably the most important witnesses of all, and probably the most difficult to subpoena. They know who the three tramps really are and why they were released. If indeed they are Skinny Ralph Schlacter, Edgar Eugene Bradley and Fred Lee Crisman, as the facial photo comparisons indicate, then Fritz, Curry and the booking cop are really accessories after the fact if not real conspirators.

D.V. Harkness - The cop who arrested the 3 tramps and turned them over to Harold Elkins.

Mrs. Baker - Standing on Elm near corner. Saw bullet, or something, hit the pavement on Elm Street near south curb. *See my memo ABOVE*

S.M. Holland - Could point out where he saw the puff of smoke (as in Shiller's book) while the nine photos which show the puff of smoke are flashed on the screen. *WHAT WOULD IT PROVE, ALONE?*

Jean Hill and Mary Moorman - Unpredictable what they would say under oath. They have both been reluctant to talk lately.

Billy Lovelady - Show him the DCA film and ask him to state again where he was at 12:45 p.m. He claimed he re-entered TSBD and didn't come out again. *WHY?*

Buell Wesley Frazier - Show him Foley photo blowup and ask if that isn't him in the 6th floor window. Also ask him about the British 303 rifle, the paper bag, and a few other things.

Phil Willis - His and Betzner's testimony prove JFK was behind oak tree at the time of the first shot if viewed from "Oswald's" window.

Jack Lawrence - Ask him why he threw up when he returned to his office plus where his car was parked.

A. J. Millican - The guy with the thick Texas accent who told me "I can't help ya, Podner" when I asked him about what he saw. He was standing very near the man with the umbrella, and the only nearby witness to face him.

Bill Newman and Wife - Were sure of a "volley of shots" from the knoll.

Hudson's Two Friends - If Hudson or someone else could identify them we'd really have something.

MAYBE
"MIGHT"

Haygood - The cop up the knoll. He was the first person to see over the fence into the parking lot. He must have seen something back there.

Jean Newman - The gal on the ground next to the Bill Newmans. She thought the shots came from the knoll.

J. C. Price, Harold Elkins, Bill Decker, Buddy Walthers, Alan Sweatt. Sheriffs who saw and heard a lot.

AND WILL
LIE

J. M. Smith - Cop who met "Secret Service" man on knoll. Shots came from knoll.