

JW, HR *Parad*

8/20/72

Mr. Martin, AA
Senator Edward Kennedy
Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Martin,

If you will permit yourself to recall some of my warnings, you may be able to see this morning's Post story as a harbinger of what lies in the immediate future. Whether or not there are other such stories prior to it, other developments are slated for this week. They are possible and have come to pass in the name of the Senator. Without at least approval in his name, it would not be possible.

"Expert Says Doctors Erred On Site of JFK's Wound", the headline says. On something as relatively small as ~~four inches~~ the human head, an error of four inches? This is not new. I discovered it years ago and wanted you to be aware of it, as I did Mr. Burke before you. With doctors an "error" of this magnitude? With a Commission staffed as that one it only "failed to clarify that point"?

All you need for continuing comfort in this matter is to persuade yourself that "error" makes accuracy, undependability assures dependability, and falsehood is the means of establishing truth.

You will recognize it as not a new sentiment when I repeat that I hate to think of the pain that may lie in the immediate future for the Senator and his family. Whether it will be this week or whether what I fear will even eventuate mortal cannot forecast.

But if you know that the first critical examination of the contracted material is scheduled for this week, that Dr. Morgan has given us a remarkable coincidence in preserving silence for four years and breaking it in the incredible way, and that he was, what the Post does not say, one of the four experts with whom the family was needlessly involved in the panel report of four years ago and in that he failed to say that the "doctors erred", perhaps you can see some possibilities.

I regret you have not seen fit to trust me to the extent of informing yourself. You or others may suddenly need information now and not have it. Should you change your mind or find this need, I will be available. My conditions are unchanged: mutual preservation of confidence. I expect to be gone for a few hours Wednesday morning, possibly Friday afternoon, but not for long any other days. If you have not checked me out in the past with others than partisans, there isn't much you can do along this line under current circumstances. However, you should be able to reach Senator Mathias, although he is in Miami, or perhaps his wife, or Sid Hurlburt, who knows me less well but may know what "Mac" thinks. Unfortunately, you are all hung up in trust of judgement that is not and never has been independent and that was formed by those who are parti pris.

I do hope that what can happen doesn't, much as I fear it is the design.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Around the Nation

Post 8/20/72

Expert Says Doctors Erred On Site of JFK's Wound

DENVER — A leading medical expert says a four-inch mistake by a pathologist who examined the body of John F. Kennedy after he was shot in Dallas produced a series of false speculations about the assassination.

Dr. Russell H. Morgan said the bullet actually entered the President's skull some four inches higher than initially reported, but the Warren Commission's detailed report on the assassination failed to clarify that point.

Morgan, dean of the medical school at Johns Hopkins University, is the only radiologist to examine the X-ray photographs of the slain president's skull.

Morgan's four-year investigation of the photographs and the Abraham Zapruder film of the assassination clarified a major inconsistency between that alleged entry point and several features of the Zapruder film which showed a frame-by-frame sequence of the shooting, he said.

Critics said the film showed the president's head in a near vertical position when the bullet hit and also showed him lurching backward, leading to speculation the bullet came from the front.

The lurching of the president's body backward, he said, was caused by body spasms after the massive wound was inflicted.

Morgan said the Zapruder film, the ballistics tests, the projected line of fire and the angle of entry of the fatal bullet all were consist-

ent with the explanation that a single shot fired from above and behind killed the president.