

3/24/80

Dear Dick,

This morning I got your two rollings of the 18th, consisting of four sets of the 18th, with \$5.00 (thank to you and Paul), your 3/18 to Howard and 3/17 to me.

I will write about. I think it is a good idea. If I have time I'll write the letter today and send it when I get your paper. I have been intending to write him again.

On Fillinger, perhaps I forgot to send you a copy, but I sketched this with Howard. I think he should be there and will go. It will have to wait until I see time, which is okay by me, for I've plenty to do add with a slight break in the weather I'm trying to get a little exercise as often as I can. (Howard used to say I eat it!)

I think a switch in the X-rays more likely than an extra shot in the head. Not inconsistent with the dirty-work we know there has been with the file, anyway. I have new material coming on this. I've been expecting it for several weeks. It will not address itself to this point, but it will be illuminating on the general case. I also will want no unnecessary chatter about it, but I'll background you when I have it and have digested it.

Another interesting coincidence: I've been going over some of the SS statements in OTH. There is no mention of how the President's body got to the autopsy house from the ambulance at Petruska. Somewhere, I think, I have a record of who was with it. I see confident Kellerman and Greer were, plus the FBI agents. But it is interesting that none of the SS statements record this.

It is in my mind that from the time AF 1 took off until the cadaver got to the AH, either Greer or Kellerman was with the body all the time.

My opinion may be worthless, but from inquiries I made about lead in X-rays, I think it unlikely powder would be mistaken for it or could be confused with it.

For the future: as I've written you, I think I'll be my own lawyer if I have to file a suit to get the panel materials. If I can get Cyril to be a technical expert, all my other witnesses will be unfriendly, something no lawyer would dare. If and when this happens, I hope you and Howard can be near to be my consultants. I am waiting to hear further from Rolapp, who phoned me about a month ago. I suggested that instead of taking the word of subordinates who, on the spot, I proved had lied to him, he check into it himself. As you know, Fisher has been keeping in touch with him. I believe Barfield is pretty unhappy about now, but I have no basis for deciding whether Rolapp is busy, stalling or troubled. I tend to believe the latter is included. But when I get a rejection and when it is in such form that it constitutes the exhausting of my administrative procedures and remedies, I'll file.

Sincerely,

for
Weisberg

16 March 70

Dear Howard:

This is in response to your question whether .22 rimfire could have been used from the front of JFK (your letter of 12 March). That is out of the question for a shot delivered from the right front to the head. .22 rimfire cannot cause that kind of movement nor anything remotely resembling that kind of damage. Too light in weight, and way too slow in velocity.

The front neck wound is not out of the realm of possibility for 22 rimfire, but it barely qualifies on that score. It would produce a skin wound like what the Parkland docs describe, but I doubt whether it could produce "great amount of contusion"-- bleeding would not be bad unless it ruptured a major artery. Since you can't posit a range closer than the concrete wall on the knoll-- and mabe even farther back than that-- I would say almost without equivocation that a 22 rimfire would not burst into several small fragments-- not even if it hit bone. It just does not have that kind of whallop.

Besides, only a fool would use a 22 rimfire on a human or on any large animal with the hope of killing it. Even the most powerful of 22 rimfires (with the exception of the .22 RemWin. Magnum) are pipsqueeks. No one who knows of guns would even contemplate it for the job that you have in mind.

Moreover, the report of rifles firing .22 rimfires is relatively slight. ~~xxxx~~ Just a loud, but not uncomfortable, "pop".

The .22 varminters that I referred to previously use bullets of about the same size as the .22 rimfires. I believe that the .22 Long Rifle (rimfire) uses a 45 grain bullet. The .22 varminters use bullets of 50-55 grains weight, normally. Small fragments of this in the neck could account for the whole bullet; but with the center-fires, I would look for evidence also of the bullet jacket. The rimfires are not jacketed-- depending on the manufacturer, they may be coated so that they look jacjeted, but that coating is not a jacket.

The velocity of the .22 Long Rifle (probably the cartridge that your friend showed you) is-- I think** about 1200 feet per second. The 22 center-fires range from 2700 fps to 4000 fps.

In writing, it is not proper for you to cite me as a reference for technical data. Whatever your opinion of me may be, I do not have a reputation as an expert. Much of what I tell you is available in printed sources. Search them out and cite them as authorities. Or get yourself a real expert. I appreciate consideration, but you hurt yourself if you cite me as an authority.

Must stop. ~~xxxxxxiii~~ Stay well.

cc Weisberg

Dick

17 March 1970

Harold:

I have a great load of correspondence that I have to answer one of these days-- to you, Howard, and others. I keep getting things but have not been able to reply well. As more piles up, it gets harder and harder, but I'll make it eventually.

I got a copy of your suit from Washington, not in your handwriting, so I suppose that Bud sent it. It looks beautiful. I can add nothing ~~xxxx~~ in the way of comment; it seems solid, and well overdue. I presume that suits for other materials are planned, too. If so, please have Bud stay in touch with me about them.

Enclosed is a letter related to recent notions about JFK head X-rays.

Until your letter of 28 Feb to "Gary, Dick, Paul", I had no knowledge that Shaw had filed suit against Garrison, though I knew he had threatened. I do not know specifically the ~~xxxxxxx~~ charge, but if it implies unwarranted harrassment by Garrison, I think Shaw ~~will~~ has no case-- for the reasons you mention. Also it could get Shaw into worse trouble than he is already in with the perjury charges. I really can't say more, since I don't know what has happened. It did not make the papers up here, and might not have baan of much value if it did.

From Paul I have your stuff on Fisher-- I sent copies to Roffman, except for the Fisher letter which specifically indicates for me alone.

I agree that you should pursue Fillinger, but with Howard's permission and letting Howard know what you learn and intend to do. It's a courtesy that implies present and future trust which I think is warranted in this case. I doubt whether Howard would object, but Fillinger himself may wish to go no further than Howard. Howard should ask F's permission first, then arrange for F to see you. Whether Harold should attend your interview with F is something you three should work out.

I think Fillinger is a prince, a mine of integrity that ought to be tapped further than Howard can. But easy, as you know, since Fillinger is friends with Finck and may not be willing to say publically what he says privately. I think it more of an advantage that Fillinger knows Fink than a disadvantage; it may keep him from saying some things, but it is an important line to original sources, a tooth in the horse's mouth, as it were.

Must stop. Go easy, and stay well.

Dick