

2/16/70

Dick(only),

The very intensity of work sometimes dims recollection of specifics, so I am not now certain what I had in mind in the writing to which you allude in your 2/9, which didn't reach me until today, together with the letter of that a.m., of which you sent Howard and Gary copies.

I can give you this specific answer: I do not and did not think that there was an extra shot fired at Bethesda. As we try to account for what has not been accounted for, it is necessary to consider all possibilities, of which this is one. While people there were capable of arranging Forrestal's suicide, for without their collaboration it could not have been, that need have required but one or two with guilty knowledge. Firing a shot, even with a silencer, inside a building, where there were two (I think dedicated) Secret Service men guarding the corpse and two FBI men watching them, aside from the assorted handlers and functionaries, necessitated much too large a conspiracy to have been risked. In general, I think we must think in terms of minimum numbers.

My own belief is that there was a conspiracy to kill and what is virtually indistinguishable from a conspiracy to obfuscate what happened, and that it is not essential that they be connected, though they may well have been.

However, this is not to say your conjecture is impossible, or that it had to have been done in Bethesda, or that it had to have been accomplished by a bullet only, so what is the thing you have in mind? Certainly we have no adequate explanation of any of those wounds or how inflicted, so why not consider when?

Hope this isn't too brief. I got the mail early at the P.O. and want to answer it all so I can get to work.

Best,

9 Feb 1970 (P)

Dear Harold:

A rather wild hypothesis rests behind this letter. Chiefly for that reason I would like you to treat this matter confidentially, at least until I get certain things straight in my mind. I don't want to disclose anything right now, but rather want to probe you concerning your unpublished opinion about the matter.

It concerns the bullet entrance hole in the back/top of JFK's head. Tell me whether you think it possible that that hole was produced after the corpse arrived at Bethesda. I.e., that the corpse ~~was~~ deliberately wounded ~~there~~ in that part of ~~of~~ the head so as to make it appear that JFK had been hit in the head from behind on Dealey Plaza.

Your writing is clear regarding the ~~definitive~~ discrepancies of the evidence pertaining to that wound-- that fact that Parkland docs and nurses did not see it, and that it was not discovered until the body got to Bethesda. Other discrepancies, too. But never mind what you have written. In between the lines of your writing I detect the suspicion that there was no such hole. Is that what you believe?

If you have unpublished evidence or opinion (firm or vague) about this, I would like to know it. Anything that lends support (or refutes) the notion that the corpse was shot in the back of the head after it left Parkland.

This is one of those things that I am somewhat embarrassed to mention because it seems so far out, and I would not like to pass the notion to anyone merely on the basis of the slight indication that I have. Wild as it is, it has been bugging me, and I would like to pursue it or to drop it-- whichever seems warranted. If my thoughts on ~~a~~ certain phenomena are correct, the matter is very important; if incorrect and pursued beyond what is warranted, then it could be a great embarrassment for us all. So for that reason I would like to be cautious and confidential.

I am sending no carbons of this letter to anyone.

Still,

Dick