

6/15/71

Dear Jim (cc: Paul Valentine)

Last night and early this a.m. I went over the Blehr papers in haste. What they disclose is more shocking than she alleges, for her objectives are limited to Wolfer and do not address the overall prosecution deficiency - or that of the defense lawyers.

It is apparent that her experts restricted themselves to the points she raised, or she raised only those suggested by one or more of her experts. These are not all that should have been raised in objection to the evidence and conduct.

Some of the alleged facts in the reports are conclusions, not facts.

The most obvious of all tests are not disclosed as having been made.

I remind you of my own oversight picked up by Fred Cook, how such statements can be made when it is known the evidence is positively negative, as in the Sacco-Vanzetti case.

Now let me conjecture a bit.

One of the things that never made sense is that anyone would purchase ammunition with an ordinary .22, which is what the Iver Johnson is. That is a relatively cheap brand. It is a very small calibre. However, some of the more sophisticated of modern weapons are of these small calibres. The first rifle Ray bought was of only slightly larger calibre, .243. My inquiries with regard to that showed it to be a more desirable assassination weapon than the heavier .30-06 under some circumstances, so calibre is not the test. There are today rather high-velocity .22 weapons available, with ammo of widely-differing characteristics yet similar appearance. Some bullets can be expected to mushroom and deform on impact, some have sufficient casing to keep them intact to the target alone, some to explode, in effect (without an explosive charge in the bullet itself), some to become dumdums on impact, some behaving differently if impact is on hard or soft substance, as flesh or bone, etc. The size of the bullet is unrelated to the propelling charge or the weapon from which it is fired, or the casing. The simplest way to see this is to compare the old-fashioned 22 bullet before firing with the more common of the newer varieties, the hornet. A regular 22 rifle bullet looks like a pistol bullet, but a hornet is like a rifle bullet, that is, in larger calibre rifles, with a shell of larger diameter, holding a much greater powder charge.

Should you want to carry this further, as I now do not, having more to do than I can, I can have it done for you.

I believe there must have been further testing that the papers you gave us show. Maybe she didn't get them. Perhaps she considered them not related to Wolfer.

The deficiencies, rather oddly, exactly coincide with those of the JFK and MLK cases.

In the context of the Blehr material, let me remind you of a little-noted item from Special Unit Senator. They gathered a fantastic number of expended bullets from the range Sirhan is alleged to have used for practise, something like 40,000 plus. They could not match one with his pistol. I think the significance of this was lost upon his flack or the cop, and when I consider this in the context of the known dishonesty of that work as I can measure it, as in its disguised reference to me, which is directly opposite the truth, for I did not initiate any contact with them, ever, I can only wonder what the real story of the range and the bullets is.

In evaluating what Blehr has presented for his own stated purposes, do not lose sight of what it says of the intent and honesty of the prosecution.

Sincerely,
Harold Weisberg

Sirhan Gun: Not Death Weapon

Affidavits and a letter challenging expert gun identification testimony in the Sirhan Bishara Sirhan and Jack Kirsche murder trials have been filed with the Los Angeles Civil Service Commission.

The documents raised a possibility that the weapon in evidence at the Sirhan trial might not have been the one used in the slaying of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Expert Is Challenged

Beck—to have Attorney General, District Attorney and City Attorney representatives at the hearing.

Mrs. Blehr told The Herald-Examiner she is questioning Wolfer's testimony only because she is interested in seeing that the Police Department has "the best there is" in scientific personnel.

She added she does not believe Wolfer is qualified for the top post, on the basis of declarations made by other criminal investigation authorities.

The documents she submitted were signed by Raymond H. Pinker, retired chief forensic chemist and pioneer of the LAPD Crime Laboratory, Walter Jack Cadman, Orange County Sheriff's chief criminologist, and Dr. LeMoynne Snyder, author and authority in legal medicine and homicide investigation.

As the cases are awaiting appeal, Davis said he urged the board of inquiry—Asst. Chief Jack Collins, Dep. Chief John McAllister and Cmdr. George

The reports, Blehr, Sirhan, mission, those p timony identify

LOS ANGELES EVENING AND SUNDAY

HERALD EXAMINER

EXPRESS

United Press International • Associated Press •

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING Richmond 8-4111

VOL. CI NO. 62 SATURDAY, MAY 29, 1971 A PRICE

All Other Calls Richmond 8-1212

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fer violated four precepts when he testified the defendant's gun and no other was involved in the shooting of Kennedy and two other victims.

"The physical evidence, however, upon which his testimony was based, established that the three above mentioned evidence bullets removed from victims were fired, not from the defendant's gun but in fact from a second similar gun with a serial number H15602," she wrote.

"The only possible conclusion

that must be reached is that similar guns were fired at the scene of the assassination. Such a leads unavoidable from: which of fired the single ever. But the second was reportedly Los Angeles Police in July, 1968, a assassination, Sirhan said. Wolfer's precept by number H15602? land impression