

Dear Jim,

1/17/80

Attached BBA VII:365,366 and 415 relate to questions in C.A. 75-226.

Page 366 is included merely because it states on page 366, that there was a Q13 specimen when the committee got it. It may not be accurate. It may be no more than loose writing.

Page 365 (105) gives the weight of bullet 399 as of the time of the committee's receipt of it as 157.7 grains. Page 415 also gives this as the weight when weighed for the committee by the Archives (which refused to do it for me). At the same point what is given as the Commission's weight, 158.6 grains, is not the Commission's but the FBI's. In any event, the difference is slight, 0.9 grains.

Ignoring the weight of the tiny fragment (366) this 0.9 grains has to account for the two samples Frazier removed and I'd be surprised if it does or can.

It is unusual that the FBI provided no before and after weights for 399, for its own records and for the Commission.

On deposition Frazier testified that he weighed it but once, when he got it.

As I recall his Commission testimony, he gave the impression that 158.6 grains was the weight as of after removal of sample, of which he testified to but one when there were two that he took.

A cone is visible where he removed core material. On deposition he testified that he cut off what extruded. He cut off more - what is represented by the cone.

I can't be certain but I am inclined to believe that 0.9 does not account for the metal Frazier removed. If I am correct then there is significant evidence in this.

I'm not saying anything about this to others.

Best,

box.

er-Carcano cartridges with Western Cartridge Co. manufacture panel in CE 139 and description. (See Figs. 1 and 2.)

Mannlicher-Carcano cartridge and unloading in the rifle to characteristics produced in

erved throughout the examination at the National Archives. A member of the Archives staff examined at the Archives or re-examined. The panel's materials—red bullets and cartridge arm identification section at Police Department.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE FIREARMS PANEL CONCERNING THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

(96) The findings and conclusions were prepared by staff of the House Select Committee on Assassinations based on material submitted by the panel members. The panel has read and accepts those findings and conclusions.

KENNEDY SHOOTING

Evidence examined

(97) The following evidence was examined in connection with the shooting of President Kennedy.

(98) CE 139(71)—One 6.5-millimeter caliber, bolt-action repeating rifle, Mannlicher-Carcano Model 1938, serial number C2766. Attached was an Ordnance Optics, Inc. 4X telescopic sight and an adjustable black leather strap.* (See figs. 3A and 3B.)

(100) A visual examination of the rifle revealed pitting, rust and copper oxidation to test-firing, which the panel believed should be removed prior to test-firing. Accordingly, a dry cloth patch was pushed through the bore.

(101) The telescopic sight was attached to a mount, which itself was attached to the left side of the rifle. Mounting facilities were not provided at the time of manufacture. Also attached to the rifle were standard iron sights, placed on the rifle at the time of manufacture.

(102) The rifle was test-fired by all panel members, using 6.5-millimeter caliber ammunition of Western Cartridge Co. manufacture. Two bullets were test-fired into a horizontal water recovery tank. Further tests were conducted by loading four cartridges into the CE 375 cartridge clip and inserting it into the magazine of the rifle. The cartridges were worked through the rifle's mechanism and ejected without being fired. When the last cartridge was chambered, the cartridge clip remained in the magazine instead of falling out as it is designed to do.

(103) CE 141.—One 6.5-millimeter caliber cartridge of Western Cartridge Co. manufacture, found in the CE 139 rifle. (See fig. 4.)

(104) CE 351.—One damaged automobile windshield removed from the Presidential limousine. (See fig. 5.)

(105) CE 399.—One fired 6.5-millimeter caliber full metal-jacketed bullet, found on a stretcher in the emergency area of Parkland Hospital. The bullet weight was found to be 157.7 grains. (72) In the same box as the bullet was a tiny fragment, which was too small to weigh or otherwise examine. (See figs. 6A and 6B.)

*The CE 139 rifle was physically examined and found to be operable. It had not been properly cleaned, maintained or lubricated. The rifling of the barrel was four lands and four grooves, right twist. The magazine was a non-detachable box, clip-fed type, with a 6-cartridge capacity. The trigger pull was determined by the panel to be approximately 3 pounds.