

CBS/BROADCAST GROUP

CBS Inc., 51 West 52 Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 975-3251

Donn H. O'Brien, Vice President
Program Practices, New York

Dear Mr. Wrone:

March 28, 1978

This is in response to your letter of February 14, 1978 concerning the accuracy in the CBS Made-for-Television movie, "Ruby and Oswald." In your letter, you demand time for rebuttal.

Prior to the broadcast of this film, the CBS Docudrama Unit, under the direction of the Department of Program Practices, conducted lengthy research to verify the historical account presented in the script. The film has been thoroughly documented using the most authoritative sources including the Warren Commission Report, other writings of the event and personal interviews.

After carefully reviewing each of your allegations, we have affirmed our belief that the broadcast was based on accurate and reliable information. Taking a few brief examples, we note that in your letter, you state:

"The sworn testimony in the Warren Commission Hearings of the employee of the Texas School Book Depository emphatically states Oswald did not carry any package into the building."

Quoting from the Warren Commission Report (Doubleday edition), at page 133:

"Oswald left the car first, picked up the brown paper bag, and proceeded toward the building ahead of Frazier. Frazier walked behind and as they crossed the railroad tracks, he watched the switching of the cars. Frazier recalled that one end of the package was under Oswald's armpit and the lower part was held with his

Mr. Wrone
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right hand so that it was carried straight and parallel to his body. When Oswald entered the rear door of the depository building, he was about 50 ft. ahead of Frazier." (In addition, this scene was based on a personal interview with Wesley Frazier.)

In addition, you assert that "the boxes in the TSED depicted as the sniper's lair are false;..."

However, we note that the Warren Commission Report (at p. 140) states, concerning exhibit 1301:

"The boxes in the window appeared to have been arranged as a convenient gun rest...Behind these boxes was another carton placed on the floor on which a man sitting could look southwesterly down Elm Street over the top of the 'Rolling Readers' cartons."

In sum, we believe that "Ruby and Oswald" was fair and accurate and that there is no obligation on our part, legally or otherwise, to provide "rebuttal" time. Accordingly, we respectfully reject your request for time.

Yours truly,



Mr. David R. Wrone
University of Wisconsin
Department of History
Stevens Point, Wisconsin 54481

DO'B/bc



university of wisconsin/stevens point • stevens point, wisconsin 54481

April 4, 1978

Donn H. O'Brien, Vice President
CBS Inc.
New York, NY 10019

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

Your letter of March 28 responding to my request for fairness doctrine time to reply to the severe distortion of history presented in the Oswald and Ruby show in February is proof patent that my request should be granted. I herewith appeal your decision and ask that I be informed of the nature of the appeals format and all particulars relating to it.

Your denial sums up as making the Warren Report a Procrustes bed for information relating to the assassination of President Kennedy. If my comments do not mesh with the Report my comments are wrong; there is no question possible that the Report is mistaken, wrong, that the Commission could have been deceived or importuned. It is a species of sacred literature to you and CBS apparently, or Am I mistaken in my assumption? Please tell me if the Warren Report is your standard and if it is why is it? In teaching students this information is important to me.

The basic principle of America is that critical examination of the fundamental institutions of our life is the only way we can maintain them in their integrity. To this end freedom of speech was instituted; to this end your network was permitted to use our airwaves.

I believe you were especially rude in your very tardy reply to WSAU's request and this impedes me in my search for fairness doctrine time.

I reply to the two instances you bothered to mention.

1) Did Oswald carry a rifle into the TSBD as you said? No. The length of the package was too long, the testimony negates your length and thus a rifle being in it. Also you ignore the best witness: Mr. Dougherty watched Oswald walk in.

Mr. Ball: In other words, you would say positively he had nothing in his hands?

Mr. Dougherty: I would say that--yes sir.

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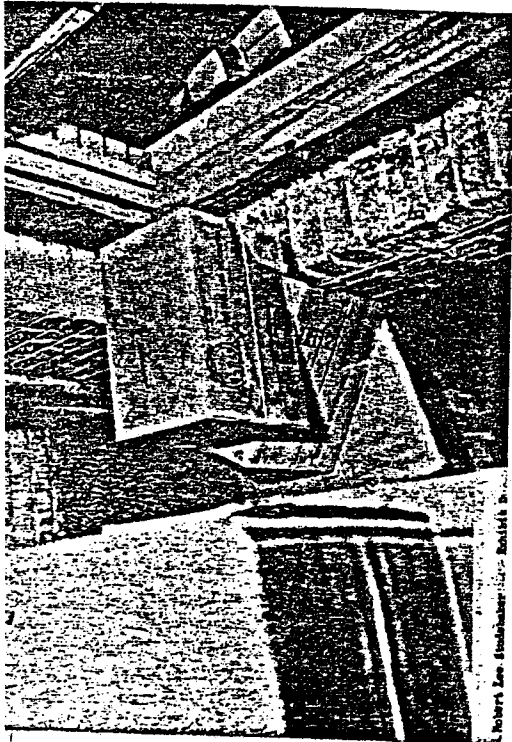
Your picture of the interior room of the Texas School Book Depository, the alleged sniper's nest, is correct you say and quote the scripture of the Warren Report to me. I enclose four other views of the interior, all incompatible with the official reconstruction of the crime. Your view--the one you proclaim as the text for all of history--was constructed about three hours after the murder, the sash was raised, the boxes moved and stacked to accomodate a rifle with a scope, the wall of boxes moved back to permit an assassin to kneel, etc.

I do not embrace extreme positions and do not seek to promote myself or others through my request. I seek an opportunity in a constitutional democracy that will permit my fifteen years of scholarship, reading, and responsible handling of the evidence in the assassination of President Kennedy to be presented to the American people, and specifically WSAU viewers, to demonstrate that your show was distorted, deceitful, and utterly repugnant to the values constitutive of the nation.

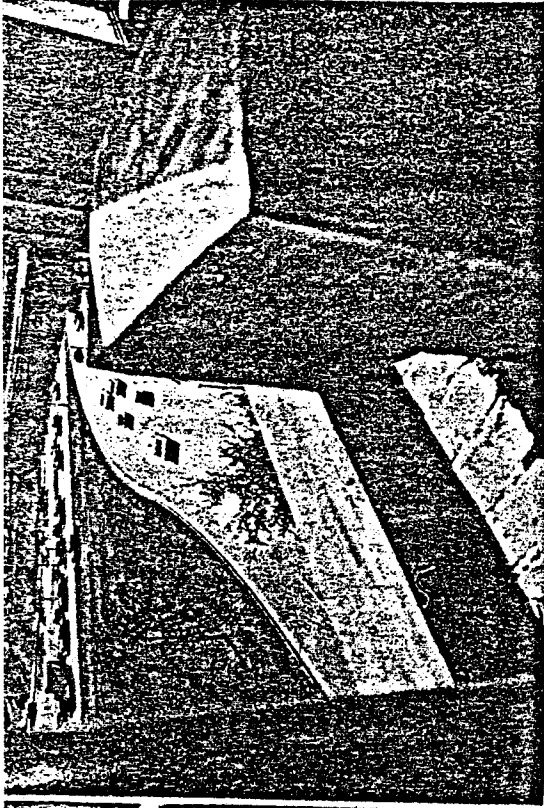
Sincerely

David R. Wrone
Professor

cc:
FCC
WSAU



Robert Lee Studebaker Exhibit D



Exhibits 715, 724, 733 and Studebaker Exhibit D are four equally official yet contradictory versions of the stacke boxes allegedly used as a gun rest by the assassin end up which the "reconstruction" was based. See Chapter 5.

WSAU - TV



1114 GRAND AVENUE, P.O. BOX 1088
WAUSAU, WISCONSIN 54401
715 845-4211.

April 3, 1978

Mr. David Wrone
University of Wisconsin
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Dear Mr. Wrone:

At long last, according to the copy of the letter I received, you heard from the network. Quite obviously not the answer you wanted, but I guess that's their position, and they'll stick to it.

I've tried to call you many times during the past couple of weeks, and we just can't make a connection. I do want to come down and visit with you, however, now I am leaving town for a little while. Matter of fact, I won't be back until April 17th.

If there is a time during the week of April 17th that we could meet, with the exception of Friday afternoon which is already booked, drop me a line so I have it when I return.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Bart Kellnhauser'.

Bart Kellnhauser
President & General Manager



university of wisconsin/stevens point • stevens point, wisconsin 54481

April 4, 1978

Mr. Bart Kellnhauser
President & General Manager
WSAU-TV
Wausau Wi 54401


Dear Mr. Kellnhauser:

Thank you for your letter of the third regarding CBS' reply. I will drop you a line shortly regarding the possibility of a meeting time.

In recent years when I have addressed complaints to the FCC on the network treatment of the subject of President Kennedy's assassination and its investigation they have replied by form letter that I must write to the local channel and it must reply to my request. CBS took about seven weeks to answer my request via your station.

Enclosed with this letter are copies of two letters. One is a formal reply to the CBS response and one to the FCC expressing my indignation with the network treatment of a citizen and their delay in handling a local stations request for a reply. I trust that you will see in these letters as I have expressed it specifically to you no personal criticism of you or your staff. I have always held you in high esteem. But the subject matter requires me to pursue the network's response to the best of my ability.

Sincerely


David R. Wrone
Professor



university of wisconsin/stevens point • stevens point, wisconsin 54481

April 4, 1978

Charles D. Ferris
Chairman
Federal Communication Commission
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Ferris:

Following up my request of two weeks ago relative to the inability of the network CBS to respond to my local channel Wsau Wausau request for fairness doctrine time I enclose copies of correspondence with the station and CBS.

I appeal the CBS refusal and ask for fairness doctrine time.

In the response of CBS they established the Warren Report as the official history of the assassination of President Kennedy and relegated all criticisms of their broadcast to the scrap heap because they did not correspond to the Procrustean state view.

Apparently there is to be only one version of the history of the assassination of President Kennedy and that one will be the FCC sanctioned CBS doctrine.

enclosures.

Sincerely,

David R. Wrone
David R. Wrone

Professor

