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The Honorable John S. Cooper
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Dear Senator Cooper:

Thank you very much for your recent letters and your Christmas card. I hope that you and your wife will have a very happy and healthy 1979.

I have been shocked at the reports from the House Assassinations Committee. There was no fourth shot from the grassy knoll area. The overwhelming evidence is that all of the shots came from the Texas School Book Depository Building, where the cartridge cases were found, where Oswald's rifle was found, and where the other physical evidence such as the paper bag and cartons used as a gun rest were found.

The only place witnesses at the time of the assassination saw a gunman was in the Texas School Book Depository Building. The ballistically identifiable bullet fragments in the Presidential limousine as well as the nearly whole bullet found at Parkland Hospital came from Oswald's rifle to the exclusion of all other weapons in the world. Also, the overwhelming evidence at the time of the assassination from the recollections of people present at the scene was that only three shots were fired (although some people said two--some four--some five--but the overwhelming majority said three).

Of course, there are all of the other facts showing there was no second gunman--no one saw a gunman in the grassy knoll area, no cartridge cases were found there, and the medical evidence is conclusive that all of the shots came from the rear. If there was a gunman in the grassy knoll area who would have been much closer to the Presidential limousine, how could he miss? And why did he only fire once?

The Honorable John S. Cooper

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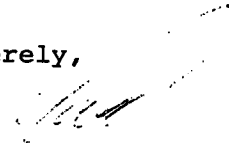
The House Assassinations Committee is just wrong in its conclusion. There also is a basic inconsistency between their saying on the one hand that there was a second gunman, but on the other hand assuring the American public that the second gunman had no relationship with Castro's government in Cuba, despite the threats of Castro to retaliate which were made in September of 1963.

One has to believe that in the long run the Warren Commission will not be hurt by the Congressional Committee's report, but rather Congress itself will suffer the damage--for the Congressional report will not stand the test of history.

I am still at a loss to explain why the House Assassinations Committee refused to honor my request to testify at a public hearing--particularly after at least two members of that Committee in early 1977 promised me that I would have that opportunity.

Best regards.

Sincerely,


David W. Belin

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