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August 28, 1978

The Honorable
David W. Belin
Herrick, Langdon, Belin,
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2000 Financial Center
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Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Dear David:

I appreciate your letter and the article you wrote.

As I told you this morning by telephone, I remember the facts quite well but I will again read the summary and the testimony of those who saw Oswald at the Depository, those who saw the shooting of Officer Tippit, Brewer, Governor Connally, and the ballistics experts. If you can think of any others to whom I should give special attention, let me know.

As I told you, I think you should advise President Ford that the BBC interviewers and others around Washington were interested chiefly in the Intelligence Committee Report on the alleged CIA plot to kill Castro and any possible connections with President Kennedy's assassination. I was asked if the Commission had any knowledge of such a plot and if Allan Dulles had ever spoken of such a plot. Of course I told them that we had no such knowledge and everything that we had heard was incorporated in our report.

Various newspaper people have also asked me about my views upon the ongoing investigation and whether such an investigation should be held. My response was

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that I had nothing to do with the initiative, but I saw nothing wrong in it as the purpose of our investigation was to secure the truth. I reiterated from time to time that I did not believe that any investigation would find anything beyond our own report, except speculation.

I am enclosing a copy of an article that appeared in the Washington Post on August 21, 1978, and a copy for President Ford.

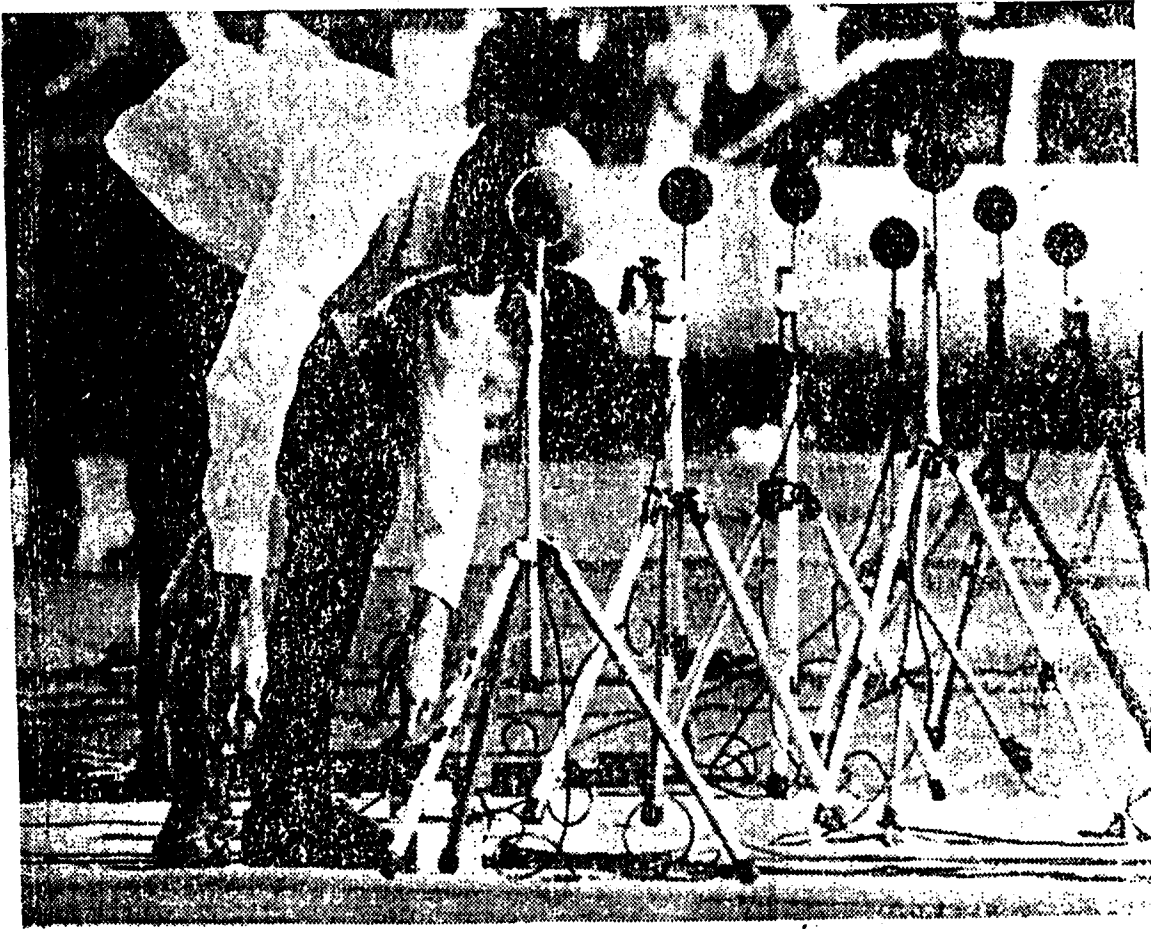
With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



John Sherman Cooper

Acoustics Experts Reenact '63 Kennedy Assassination in Dallas



Associated Press

Microphones are set up to tape gunshot noises and determine how many were fired at presidential motorcade.

By Nancy Smith

Special to The Washington Post

DALLAS—Shots rang out at the John F. Kennedy assassination site yesterday morning as experts conducted a sophisticated test to determine how many shots were fired at the presidential motorcade on Nov. 22, 1963.

The acoustical experts, called in by the House Assassinations Committee and employed by the same company that investigated the 18½-minute Watergate tape gap, declined to comment on the results of their test here. The firm, Bolt, Veranek and Newman of Massachusetts, is expected to present its findings to the House panel next month.

It took more than four hours for three Dallas Police Department sharpshooters to fire 56 rounds of live ammunition into sandbags strategically placed along the motorcade route.

The police officers fired two Italian-made Manlicher Carcano rifles, identical to the one believed used by Lee Harvey Oswald, who was named by the Warren Commission as Kennedy's lone assassin. The officers fired from the sixth floor of the Texas Schoolbook Depository building, from the window where Oswald reportedly fired three shots at Kennedy.

Shots also were fired from a grassy knoll near the building with a .38-cal. Smith and Wesson revolver. The pistol was fired from behind the knoll, where some experts say a second assassin fired a fourth shot. Patrolman Tom Knight, who fired the revolver yesterday, would not comment on the reasons for its use. But it has been reported that the Jack Ruby pistol, delivered to the House panel last week, also was a .38-cal. revolver. (On Nov. 24, 1963, Ruby shot and fatally wounded Oswald.)

Yesterday's tests were recorded by more than 50 microphones and the recordings were to be compared against a Dallas police tape recording of the original gunfire that seemed to indicate a fourth shot.

The testing attracted some 200 spectators, about half of them from the news media. They started gathering around police barricades at about 5:30 a.m. to watch the testing crewmen set up their tripod-held microphones.

Almost an hour after daybreak, a policeman revved up his motorcycle to simulate the traffic noise during the assassination, and the first shot was fired from the depository window into one of four piles of sandbags placed along the parade route. The shots reverberated in a clockwise echo, against the Dallas County records building to the left, and around the post office straight ahead.



United Press International

Policeman fires live ammunition from sixth floor of schoolbook depository.

As the shots rang out, many in the crowd seemed to shudder, startled.

A number of out-of-town bystanders interviewed yesterday seemed to think the reenactment was worthwhile, but to the few local spectators it was an unnecessary resurrection of a tragic incident that Dallas, still smarting from the brand "City of Hate," would prefer to forget.

Cab driver Geraldine Walker, who stood behind the barricades starting at dawn, put it this way:

"I hear a lot of negative attitudes toward Dallas from the people in my cab. They remember the way Adlai Stevenson was treated and they remember how Richardson [a Dallas suburb] had a hate campaign. I have people in my cab from all over the world, and this is the main thing they want to see."

"What's the purpose of it? I don't understand it," said Mary McCord of the reenactment. "It happened 13 years ago and people are still crying over it."

But spectators from other areas said the reenactment was worthwhile. "This should have been done a long time before," said John Ruiz, who came from Indiana for a Veterans of Foreign Wars convention here. Rick Bennett of Framingham, Mass., said he "just wanted to come down to make sure they did what they said they were going to do, or whether it was all a farce."

Even a non-English-speaking Venezuelan military officer who was touring the John F. Kennedy Museum yesterday morning with his family agreed that restaging was valuable. "It is very important for us to know what happened," Lt. Col. Joseph Alvarez said in Spanish. "This act is important."

But no conclusions were announced, and most spectators left bewildered. As the only patrolman at the scene who witnessed the assassination 15 years ago said, "I don't know what they can prove. It's still just as confusing now as it was then."