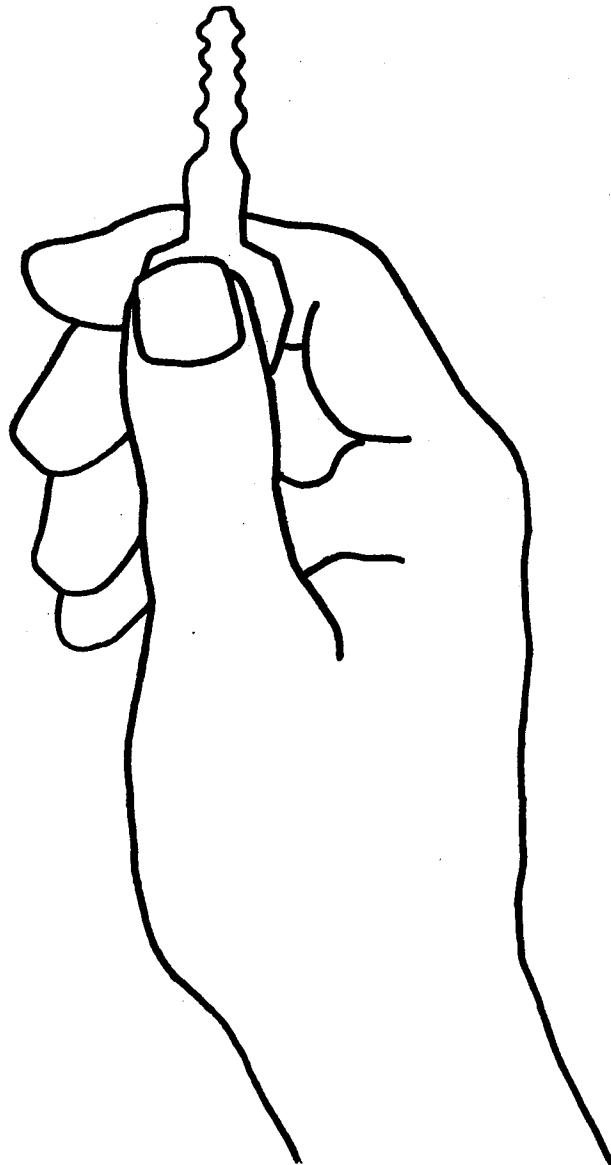


HAMILTON HOUSE — \$5.00

THE KEY

To The Assassination of John F. Kennedy
Plus The Seiberling Letters

By Edmund C. Johnston
With Illustrations By Tom Wills



First Edition © May, 1977

By Edmund Cooper Taylor Johnston

Cover Design and All Drawings by Tom Wills

HAMILTON PUBLISHING HOUSE

Don Webb, Publisher

Akron, Ohio

Printed in the United States of America

This Thesis is dedicated to Officer Cuneo of the San Francisco Police Department whose matter of fact on-the-street interview taught me the workings of the Italian Concarno Rifle.

Edmund

To John Sherman Cooper,
who, like myself, looked at
it, and disagreed —
Edmund Cooper Taylor Johnston
(out of Mayfield, Ky.)

"They talk about the 'one-bullet or two-bullet theory,' but as far as I'm concerned, there is no 'theory.' There is my absolute knowledge, and Nellie's too, that one bullet caused the President's first wound, and that an entirely separate shot struck me . . . It's a certainty. I'll never change my mind."

—John B. Connally, Life Magazine, Nov. 25th, 1966

This Mailgram is a confirmation copy of the following message:

Representative Thomas N. Downing
House Committee on the Investigations of the
Deaths of John F. Kennedy and Martin
Luther King Jr.
House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Dear Sir:

The horror and shock of the murder of the President of the United States, John F. Kennedy, has left this country and the world in a state of conspiracy minded speculation fed by a conglomeration of associations from Tokyo to Moscow to New Orleans to Mexico City and finally to a strip joint in Dallas. The result of a 9 month Warren Commission Investigation, completely secret until released, created something that can only be called National Paranoia. The Warren Commission critics have used certain inconsistencies in the report to distort, speculate, fantasize, and create an aura of conspiracy that still infects the mind of the body politic, this despite the fact that not one single iota of concrete evidence has been brought forth by any of them. The answer to this Gordian Knot is quite obvious — clear up the few inconsistencies in the Warren Report, and clear the air. The single most troublesome inconsistency is the so called "Single Bullet Theory." Since November 25, 1966 I have worked on a logical explanation of what happened in Dallas on November 22, 1963. That thesis and explanative and corrective correspondence is in the hands of Representative John F. Seiberling and his aide Donald Mansfield. Two hours of testimony before your committee would clarify this whole matter. I do now ask, nay demand, as a citizen of this nation, to be allowed my day in the court of the world. I have spent 10 years of my life in this quest. The least you and yours can do, is to listen to what I have written.

Most Sincerely,

Edmund C. Johnston

January 21, 1977
13:11 EST
Akron, Ohio
CC: John F. Seiberling

THOMAS N. DOWNING, VA., CHAIRMAN
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(202) 225-4024

Select Committee on Assassinations
U.S. House of Representatives
3341 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

January 31, 1977

Mr. Edmund C. Johnston

Akron, Ohio 44303

Dear Mr. Johnston:

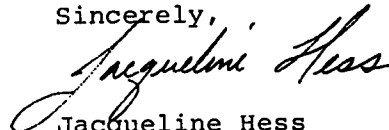
Thank you for your correspondence of January 21, 1977.

I am enclosing a copy of the Final Report of the Select Committee on Assassinations, which was filed with the 94th Congress on December 31, 1976. As you will note, it was the feeling of the Select Committee, upon completion of its initial three-month probe, that serious questions remain to be answered concerning the circumstances surrounding the assassination of John F. Kennedy. The Committee is interested in resolving these questions which are, as you have noted, in the minds of many Americans. To that end, we intend to conduct a comprehensive investigation and would be very interested in whatever information you possess.

As you may be aware, the Committee, should it be re-created, will labor under a Continuing Resolution until a funding level is determined. During this time, we will not be able to question long-distance witnesses as we would like. Therefore, if you can elaborate more fully on the nature of your information in a letter, it would be most helpful.

Looking forward to hearing from you again, I remain

Sincerely,



Jacqueline Hess
Deputy Chief Researcher

Enclosure

JH/rlm

Jacqueline Hess
Deputy Chief Researcher
Select Committee On Assassinations
U.S. House of Representatives
3341 House Office Building, Annex 2
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Jacqueline:

In reply to your letter of January 31, 1977, and the enclosed report of the Committee, I would like first to state that I am in agreement with almost all of the statements made in the report. I was stunned by similarity to my own views expressed in the introduction, and in individual statements by Committee members. Since we start from a spirit of agreement, I feel that I need only clarify what I have to offer in regard to this investigation.

1. I have done no research into the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., nor do I intend to. One assassination research job is quite enough.
2. I have observed through the press, magazines, television and through a lecture booked by Lordly and Dame, Boston, the many conspiratorial theories that exist.
3. None of these theories are part of my concern or of my conclusions.
4. My only interest in this matter is now, and has been, to clear up the mechanics of what exactly happened in Dallas on November 22, 1963. It is my contention that the Warren Commission was in error in one highly important — nay, basic theory.
5. That theory is the so called "single bullet theory," advanced by Richard Sprague's old boss Arlen Specter of Philadelphia, and subscribed to by four of the seven members of the Warren Commission.
6. Three members of the Commission, John Sherman Cooper, Hale Boggs, and Richard Russell, did not buy the theory. Russell was so adamant that he said he would not sign the report if it contained the theory. The language of the report was subsequently changed to refer to "the single bullet theory" as "most persuasive."
7. On January 27, 1973, I presented John F. Seiberling, Representative to Congress from Akron, with a copy of my thesis on the subject dated November 17, 1970. Subsequent letters from Seiberling and his aide Donald Mansfield were promptly answered by me with corrective and explanatory material. Enclosed please find copies of all of these, as well as the thesis itself.
8. It is my certain view, and sure knowledge, that the basic inconsistency of the Warren Report, the so-called "single bullet theory," is responsible for almost all of the conspiratorial theories — in short — no one man could have done all that in so short a time. It has engendered in the public mind, nationally and internationally, a state of paranoia, a fear of person or persons unknown. The only way this massive mental illness can be cured is to let it all hang out, as you have indicated in your report.

I recognize that conspiracy makes headlines, whereas an explanation of an error does not. I pray that you will look closely, very closely, at the enclosed.

Most Sincerely,

Edmund C. Johnston

Akron, Ohio
February 8, 1977

JOHN F. GEIBERLING
14TH DISTRICT, OHIO

COMMITTEE:
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INSULAR AFFAIRS

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Washington, D.C. 20515

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March 7, 1973

Mr. Edmund Johnston

Akron, Ohio 44303

Dear Mr. Johnston:

After reading your very interesting and thoughtful analysis of the shooting of President Kennedy in Dallas, I asked a member of my staff to review the Zapruder film and other motion picture films in the National Archives. He was also shown color slides of the film, frame by frame, and black and white prints of crucial frames. The following are his comments for your consideration.

"The FBI was correct in determining that Kennedy was seated far to the right of the back seat with his rib cage against the walls of the car.

It is doubtful that Kennedy was struck in the back by a bullet in frame 198. He is still erect, waving.

There is no evidence in the still photographs viewed that an enormous physical thrust, thrust Kennedy forward in frame 199. It is true that his right hand moves, but it returns from waving and clutches the chest. Kennedy's head is erect after emerging from behind the sign in frame 225.

There was no evidence from materials viewed that Kennedy was thrown backward against the seat in frame 200. He is still erect and waving in stills of that frame.

Kennedy appeared to be reacting to the first wound in frame 225.

It is inconclusive whether Governor Connally was holding his hat in his right hand in frame 230. The Governor is looking ahead and shows no sign of discomfort.

Mr. Edmund Johnston

2

March 7, 1973

It appears that Kennedy was thrust forward in frame 313, and that a backlash begins in frame 314.

There is a backward recoil in frame 314, but whether it is caused by the brace is a matter of conjecture.

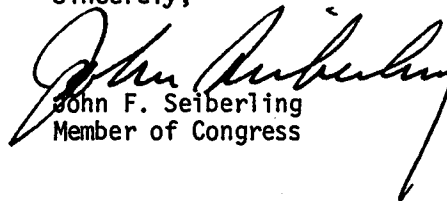
It is correct that Kennedy was struck in frame 313, but incorrect that his head was thrust forward. He was hit while leaning slightly forward. His body reclines backward, then forward, to the right side, and then down out of sight.

Without describing physical details, the crucial frame, 313, is unquestionably where President Kennedy's mortal wound was inflicted."

I appreciate very much your concern as a citizen in attempting to resolve this important question. I would hope that the foregoing comments might be of some help to you and would like your comments on them. Naturally, since I have not seen the films, I cannot evaluate the above comments. Let me say, however, that I am still puzzled as to how Oswald could get off three shots that accurately in such a short period of time, bearing in mind that he was not using a semi-automatic but a bolt action weapon. I would be interested in your views on this.

Thanks again for your interest.

Sincerely,



John F. Seiberling
Member of Congress

/w

March 11, 1972, 9:25 P.M.

The Hon. John F. Seiberling
1234 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Rep.:

I want to thank you from the depth of my being for the first substantive reply to my paper on the assassination of John F. Kennedy in over six years. I would also like to commend the courage of your aide in viewing the slides and stills in question. Having studied them in Life Magazine and in the Warren Report over a two year period, I can personally attest to the horror they engender.

I have only one cop-out in this case, and that is that I have never viewed the actual slides and films contained in the National Archives, and held by right of purchase by Life Magazine. All work done by me was accomplished by studying the pictures printed in Life, and by trying to interpret those frames not printed in Life, but contained in the Warren Report, that is to say, all frames of the Zapruder Film prior to #206, with the single exception of frame 193. I have read that the clarity and definition of the pictures in the National Archives is exceedingly sharp when compared to the reproductions in Life Magazine, and is only surpassed by the actual slides held by Life. The prints in Life are by nature of the reproduction process somewhat grainy, and the total Zapruder Film in the Warren Report is dark and murky, and almost impossible to interpret. In all of my work, I have been completely dependant on Life and other magazines, plus the San Francisco Public Library, since I do not own a copy of the report. So, I am perfectly willing to admit that some of the points raised by your staff member may have validity. Since his viewing of the National Archives' films would certainly have afforded him a greater discernment of detail than I have had the opportunity to perceive, I still think, as I stated to you on January 27th, that the Thesis is about 95% correct. In view of his critique, I shall incorporate his valid points into the Thesis, and rebut the others as I think proper. In truth, he helped, more than he hurt. I welcome the chance to engage in a colloquy, rather than a soliloquy. I will comment on each point as it was raised in your letter.

1. **The FBI was correct in determining that Kennedy was seated far to the right of the back seat with his rib cage against the walls of the car.**

I accept the determination that Kennedy was seated far right in the back seat, (but not that far right) but do not accept the F.B.I.'s positioning of Connally. He is at least six inches too far left.

Again, even if you accept the improper position of Connally, that bullet would have had to hit him on his left side, not his right.

2. **It is doubtful that Kennedy was struck in the back by a bullet in frame 198. He is still erect, waving.**

I accept that Kennedy was not hit in frame 198. The proper sequence should read:

- 196 - Oswald Fires.
- 197 - Bullet Leaves Gun.
- 198 - Bullet In Transit.
- 199 - Bullet Strikes The President.
Right Hand Thrust Forward.
- 200 - The Recoil Of The Lumbar-Sacral Brace Throws John Kennedy Backward Against
The Back Seat.

3. **There is no evidence in the still photographs viewed that an enormous physical thrust, thrust Kennedy forward in frame 199. It is true that his right hand moves, but it returns from waving and clutches the chest. Kennedy's head is erect after emerging from behind the sign in frame 225.**

The third bullet struck bone. The thrust forward was pronounced. The first bullet struck no bone in the President's body. So, the thrust forward was less pronounced. But there was a sudden thrust forward as evidenced by the sudden movement of his right hand. Try to move your right hand sharply forward, without moving your right shoulder. It is impossible.

Your aide has ignored the fact that before Kennedy's right hand clutches his (throat) (mouth), it falls limp over the right side of the car. This is the tip-off that he has been shot.

4. **There was no evidence from materials viewed that Kennedy was thrown backward against the seat in frame 200. He is still erect and waving in stills of that frame.**

My view of the three frames - 198, 199 and 200 - may have been cloudy, but my memory is not. I recall seeing three distinct postures in those three frames.

198 - Kennedy Erect And Right Hand Up At About Face Height.

199 - Right Hand Moves Sharply Forward And Kennedy's Body Slightly Forward.

200 - Right Hand Sharply Back And Almost Vertical. Body Thrown Backwards And Twisted To The Right. (His Head Slumps)

How do you know he is waving? Just because his hand is still in the air, does not necessarily mean that he is waving. You must remember that each frame takes only one-eighteenth of a second. Any movement that travels a noticeable distance in 1/18 of a second must be termed violent. The right hand thrust is the tell-tale sign of the first penetration.

5. **Kennedy appeared to be reacting to the first wound in frame 225.**

No question as to #225.

6. **It is inconclusive whether Governor Connally was holding his hat in his right hand in frame 230. The Governor is looking ahead and shows no sign of discomfort.**

The Governor of Texas wears a hat. It is a modified ten-gallon hat. It is the symbol of his State and his office. When he is not wearing it on his head, he carries it in his hand, or places it in his lap. (See Life cover - November 24, 1967). If that is not a hat in his hand, what is it? (Frames 230 and 231). (See Airport Scene In "Executive Action")

7. **It appears that Kennedy was thrust forward in frame 313, and that a backlash begins in frame 314.**

This confirms Josiah Thompson's Thesis on this one point.

8. **There is a backward recoil in frame 314, but whether it is caused by the brace is a matter of conjecture.**

There is one other possible theory in explanation of that backlash, and that is the sudden spurt forward of the Lincoln, which accelerated at about this time. I don't think that it would have caused so violent a movement however. (I think it would have stopped the forward motion however during the first hit.) I dropped in to Hittenberger's on Sutter Street in San Francisco, and spoke to one of the managers. They sell and represent manufacturers of trusses, supports, braces and the like. I represented myself as a writer working on an article about some people who had overcome physical handicaps, and I wanted some information on the type of brace worn by John Kennedy. He did not know for certain, but said it was probably a chair-back brace, which consists of curved metal ribs covered with leather that extend vertically from the sacroiliac to just beneath the shoulder blades, or a Taylor Brace, a shorter brace worn around the waist area. After some banter and getting the descriptions of both, I asked him if someone wearing one of these braces were to receive a heavy blow on the back with say a sledge hammer or a club, if he were pushed forward, would that brace bring him back to an erect posture. He stated, "Certainly, if it were a chair-back brace. If it were a Taylor Brace - maybe." Teddy Kennedy would know what kind of a brace his brother wore, for he wears one also.

9. **It is correct that Kennedy was struck in frame 313, but incorrect that his head was thrust forward. He was hit while leaning slightly forward. His body reclines backward, then forward, to the right side, and then down out of sight.**

I got the head-snap term from Josiah Thompson's article. I haven't seen these frames (save in in the Warren Report.) I don't want to really.

10. **Without describing physical details, the crucial frame, 313, is unquestionably where President Kennedy's mortal wound was inflicted.**

No question on #313.

In answer to your question regarding the time required to fire the Concarno three times:

The F.B.I. determined that the minimum period of time required to fire the Concarno rifle three times as an effective weapon was 4.6 seconds. C.B.S. and Walter Cronkite reduced that figure by .5 seconds to 4.1 seconds, by running a moving target on a track in front of marksmen firing the same weapon from a six floor high platform.

I am convinced that Connally was struck on the right side by the second shot in frame 238. If you will notice the sudden appearance of the roses between 237 and 238, you will, I am sure, agree. Life Magazine states in the November 25, 1966 edition of Page 43, "In 238 his right shoulder buckles . . ." Why does that shoulder buckle? It buckles because it has just been struck by the second bullet.

Between 238 and 313 are 75 frames. Each frame takes .054645 seconds. $75 \times .054645$ equals 4.098375 or 4.1 seconds.

Oswald had more than ample time to deliver his final and fatal shot in frame 313.

So, we are not concerned with the final shot, only with the first two.

There only remains the task of determining the point of entry of the first bullet. I was convinced it was #199 because of the sudden forward thrust of the President's right hand. I could find no other indication of a penetration and its resultant thrust or push forward.

From 199 to 238 is 39 frames. $39 \times .054645$ equals 2.131155 seconds or 2.13 seconds.

Oswald had 2.13 seconds to complete his second shot, after he had completed his first shot!

1/2 of 4.6 seconds is 2.3 seconds.

1/2 of 4.1 seconds is 2.05 seconds.

Is that enough time? I believe it is. But that is not for me to judge. The F.B.I. will have to test for time for two shots, not three, and whatever time it takes to pull the trigger will have to be tacked onto the top. You should realize that Oswald had to be in place, ready to fire, when the car moved into view. All he had to do was pull the trigger when the prime occupant came into his sights. He then had 2.13 seconds to crank the bolt and fire the second shot.

I hope the above satisfies your request for additional insight into these clouded questions. I have a couple of other wrinkles to the case which I shall reveal when the Government decides to be "serious." I believe that these two new assessments of the facts at hand will prove without question, my theory. My deepest thanks to you for your sincere and honest appraisal and for the work you have done on my behalf. Your interest in this matter and your devotion to the task of checking out the paper are remarkable to me, and I am gratified beyond the telling of it. I would like to express my sympathy and appreciation to your aide for going through what must surely have been a shattering experience.

Most Sincerely Yours,

Edmund C. Johnston

Akron, Ohio
March 11, 1972, 9:25 P.M.

JOHN F. SEIBERLING
14TH DISTRICT, OHIO

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JUDICIARY
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AKRON, OHIO 44311
TELEPHONE (216) 762-6323

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 30, 1973

Mr. Edmund Johnston

Akron, Ohio 44303

Dear Mr. Johnston:

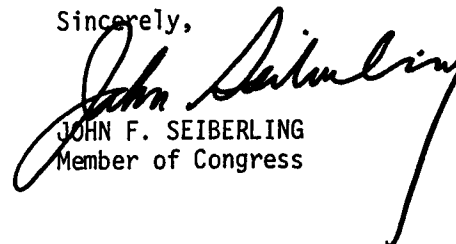
I apologize for the delay in my response to your letter of March 10, but want to thank you for writing.

The additional data you outlined in your letter by and large seems to dovetail with the information that my staff member ascertained at the National Archives. I would only comment on two parts to which you allude: in the third point regarding the third bullet, you mention that my aide ignored the fact that before Kennedy's right hand clutches his throat, it falls over the right side of the car and this is the tip-off that he was shot. I asked my aide to check this out and he said there was no way of determining this because Kennedy is directly behind the sign post when he first reaches for the throat.

In the eighth point regarding the possible explanation of the backlash being the sudden acceleration of the Presidential automobile which you tend to disregard as not having caused so violent a movement; it must be remembered that the Secret Service instructions for any sort of an attempt on the President was to rapidly accelerate. It is not inconceivable that a high-powered limousine, with its engine and transmission at low rpm and at low range, if the accelerator were floor-boarded, would develop tremendous torque and accelerate far more rapidly were it in cruising gear. You may be interested in pursuing this through someone who is knowledgeable in automotive performance.

I am pleased to have been helpful to you in your research into this extremely morbid and distressing incident in our nation's history.

Sincerely,



JOHN F. SEIBERLING
Member of Congress

JFS/n

The Hon. John F. Seiberling
1234 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Rep. and Rep's Aide:

In answer to your letter of March 30, 1973, and the two points raised therein:

1. Numerous witnesses at the scene testified that Kennedy's right arm fell over the right side of the car after he was shot. Since the Zapruder frames show no visual evidence of this, the F.B.I. quite properly concluded that this action occurred while the President was behind the sign. You can view this depiction in the re-enactment frames taken from the sixth floor on pages 88 and 89, volume XVIII of the Warren Report showing frames 207, 210, and 222.

In frame 225, his hand starts to rise to clutch his mouth, not his chest or his throat. The bullet we are speaking of is of course the first bullet, not the third.

2. I readily agree that almost all of the movements of the President's body subsequent to frame 314 were caused by the rapid acceleration of the Lincoln. In a previous copy of the thesis, I wrote the following sentence in regard to frame 314 and subsequent frames:
"The President's weakened body and neck musculature, now made virtually lifeless by the third shot, can no longer support itself against the forward momentum of the car, and his head rolls backward."

That thesis was dated November 17, 1967.

By accepting the above, I do not now wish to throw out the brace theory, for I still feel that the brace played a major role in stopping the forward movement of the body between frames 199 and 200, and between frames 313 and 314.

Although I have never seen a description of the brace, I must assume that since Kennedy's back injury was more than serious, the apparatus to support his back had to have considerable substance and strength. When struck high by two bullets, the upper portion of his body would be shoved forward and downward, while the entire mid-torso remained rigid, and I believe would cause an immediate counter-reaction or back-lash.

I hope the above comments will help to alleviate your caution. It is my firm belief that this case must be re-opened, so that it may be closed finally in the public mind. Only then, can the suspicion and mistrust propagated by it be destroyed.

I asked you for a substantive reply, and you gave it to me. I thank you for it. Yes, I thank you for it very much indeed. I ask you now, to ask the Department of Justice for a substantive reply — to my thesis, and to all the corrections contained in your letters and mine.

Most Sincerely Yours,

Edmund Cooper Johnston

Akron, Ohio
April 4, 1973

JOHN F. SEIBERLING
14TH DISTRICT, OHIO

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

April 25, 1973

Mr. Edmund C. Johnston

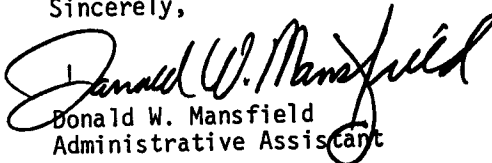
Akron, Ohio 44303

Dear Mr. Johnston:

During the week preceding the spring Congressional recess, there was a considerable crush of legislative business that required Congressman Seiberling's presence, either in Committee or on the floor of the House, almost continuously. Because of this accelerated activity, I am sorry that Congressman Seiberling did not have an opportunity to reply to your letter of April 5.

Upon his return to Washington next week, he plans to make a decision on how he may most effectively respond to your request with respect to the Department of Justice. At that time he will be writing you further.

Sincerely,


Donald W. Mansfield
Administrative Assistant

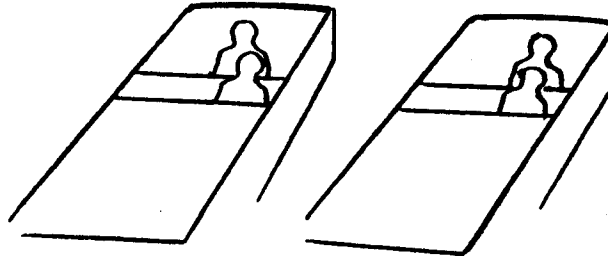
DWM/n

**The Key to The Solution of the Assassination of John Fitzgerald Kennedy,
the President of the United States, and the attempted murder of John Connally,
the Governor of Texas in Dallas, Texas, November 22, 1963.**

"Where, if it didn't hit Connally, did that bullet go?" asked Arlen Spector, Assistant Counsel for the Warren Commission, in the November 25th, 1966 edition of Life Magazine, in reference to the first shot fired in Dallas on that black Friday. Walter Cronkite, on the C.B.S. program "Inquiry: The Warren Report," stated, that faced with a choice between the Warren Commission's "single bullet theory," and a bullet headed toward the center of the car and vanishing in mid-air, one is forced to accept the conclusions of the Commission. However, even the most staunch supporters of the conclusions of the commission must grant that there are and have been basic inconsistencies in its findings, unanswered questions that have, and still do promote an uneasiness and suspicion in the minds of all the peoples of the earth. The prime cause of this suspicion is the "single bullet theory."

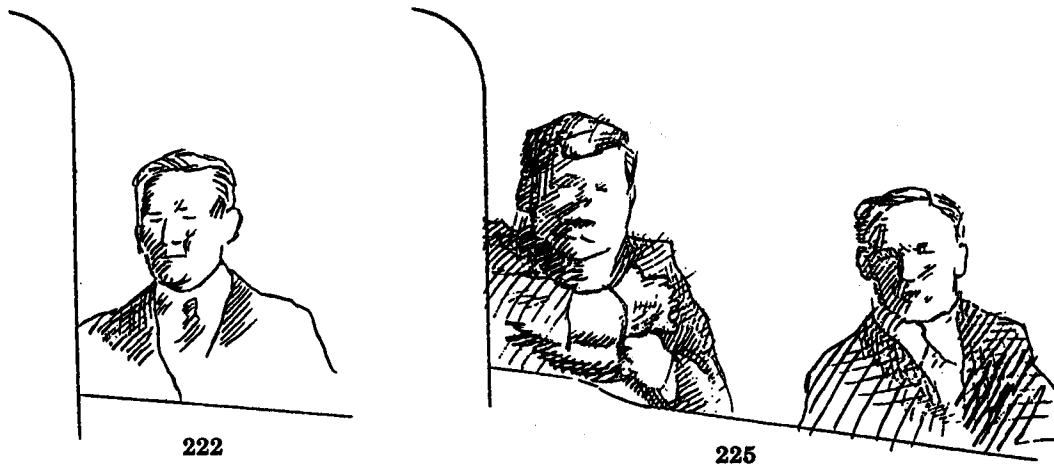
In this earnest and seemingly reasonable theory, advanced by Arlen Spector, and subscribed to by four of the seven members of the Commission, it was necessary for Oswald to be stationed far over on the left side of the far left window on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository in order for their "alignment of holes" theory to be plausible. If he were stationed on the right of that window the angle would be too great; the holes wouldn't line up. So on a day in Spring of 1964, the F.B.I. pushed a secret service limosine down Elm Street in Dallas, stopping the car every 10.74 inches, matching the position of the car and its occupants with the pictures taken by amateur photographer Abraham Zapruder on that day. In 152 frames the Lincoln travelled a distance of 136 feet. 136 feet is 1632 inches. 152 into 1632 is 10.7368421 or 10.74 inches per frame. A camera was attached to a rifle and pictures taken at each step by a cameraman on the sixth floor. His position in the window was far over on the left matching the supposed position of Oswald in the window. Thus began the initial complication of a baffling puzzle that exists to this day.

The camera man was stationed on the left because it was supposed that Oswald had been on the left, and the F.B.I.'s alignment of the two stand-ins for John Kennedy and John Connally placed Kennedy far over to the right of the back seat with his rib cage right up against the walls of the car, and Connally far over toward the center. The Zapruder films do not bear this out. Other pictures



taken that day do not bear this out. As far as I can determine the relative position of the two men, Kennedy and Connally, is just about the same, Kennedy just slightly to the right of right center of the back seat, and there could be no equivocation in the position of John Connally, he was seated on a jump seat in the Lincoln, and his position was determined by that small seat. He was directly mid-point of right center. One must wonder how this alignment of the two men was determined in the first place and why it has remained unchallenged. Again, I must conclude that it was done to satisfy the "one bullet theory," and its "alignment of holes" - one bullet entering the back of the President, exiting from his neck, nipping his tie, striking John Connally in the back on the right side close to the armpit, exiting from a large gaping hole just below his right nipple, shattering his right wrist, and shattering the bullet, bits and pieces ending up in his left leg and under the left jumpseat. This thesis is held as the official position of the government in regard to the assassination and anyone who questions it is looked upon with a benign condescension and held to be in opposition to the dignity and wisdom of the men who proposed it. I do not question their earnestness or the sincerity of their conviction. I question their theory!

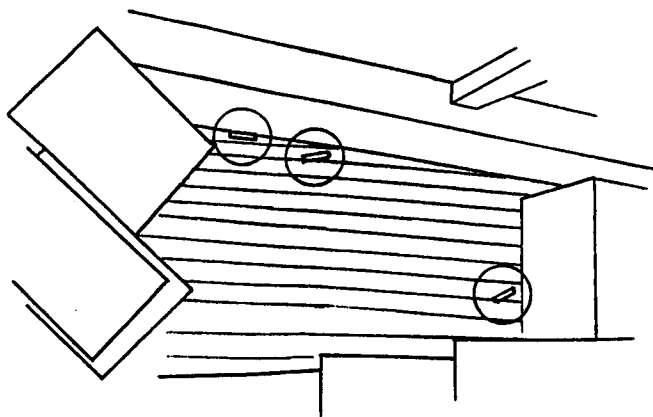
That one bullet would have had to perform a trajectory in the shape of a "Z" in order for the Commission's thesis to be acceptable. One look at the picture on 48B of Life, November 25, 1966 will tell you that the bullet had to hit Connally on his left side, not his right, even if you accept the erroneous positions of the two men in the limosine. One look at the Zapruder films will tell you that John Kennedy is already reacting violently to his first wound in frame 225, as he comes into view from behind the sign, whereas John Connally is unconcerned as yet in frame 222 and remains so until he begins to wince in frame 230. How could his right wrist have been shattered when in frame 230 he is obviously holding his hat in his right hand without any sign of discomfort? Where is the blood on the supposedly shattered wrist? No! He was hit on the right side of the back much later by the second shot, and John Kennedy's life was taken by the third bullet.



The Sight Line from the Sixth Floor

The Italian Concaro rifle does not automatically eject shells after firing. The act is accomplished by use of the bolt action during a backward swing of the bolt. Commission Exhibit 510 and 512 show the position of the spent shells on the floor. Two are grouped close to the divider of the windows and the third, farther back and farther away to the right. I suggest that this indicates Oswald's position for firing the three shots was much farther right than the position of the camera during the re-enactment.

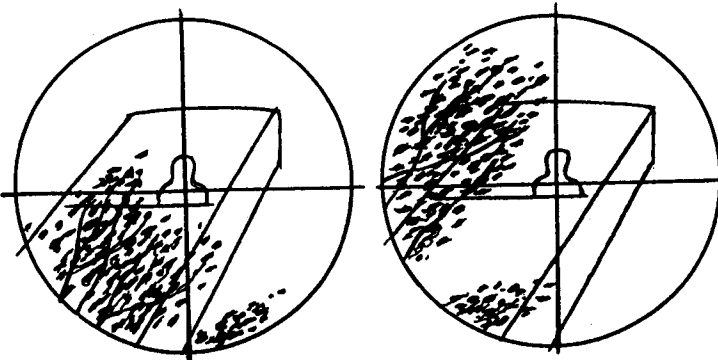
By measuring the double windows on a scale given in the Warren Report I determined that the two windows measured 7.5 feet. One window then is somewhat less than 3.75 feet or about 3.5 feet. This could place Oswald up to 2 feet farther over to the



right in the window. The camera should have shot from farther right during the re-enactment.

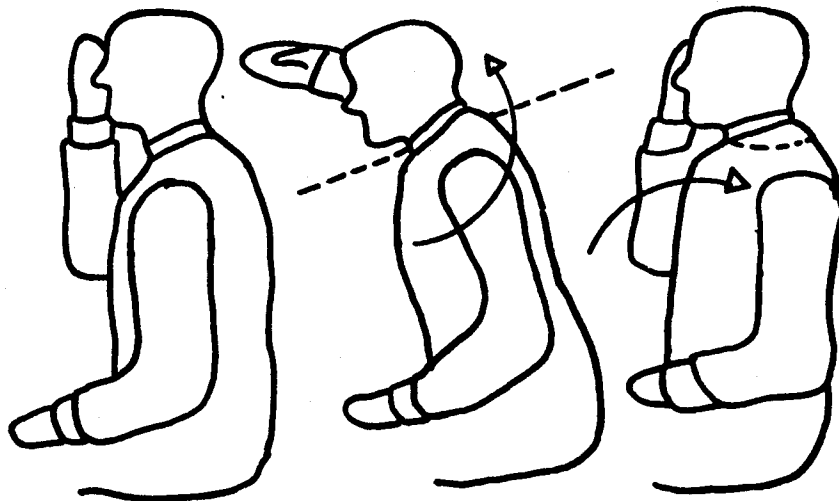
The street is at an angle to the Texas School Book Depository of approximately 40 degrees, and directly in Oswald's line of vision is a tree. Oswald cannot properly fire while the car and its occupants are under the tree. Looking from my

window my view is obstructed by a tree. As I move two feet to my right, a like distance is revealed on the left of the heretofore obstructed view. As I move right I see what was obstructed on the left. In other words, the tree, or to be more specific, a large branch of the tree in Dealy Plaza acts as a kind of visual fulcrum, obstructing the view of the road from the camera's position on the left, but revealing more of the street as Oswald's position is moved to the right. This means quite simply that the Lincoln came out from under the tree and into Oswald's line of fire much earlier than the Commission had indicated. Due to a deep indentation on the right side of that branch, and the peculiar angle of the street to the school book depository, I have roughly calculated that the top of John Kennedy's head would have come into view 28 frames earlier than the Commission determined, or at about frame 182.



When did the First Bullet Hit?

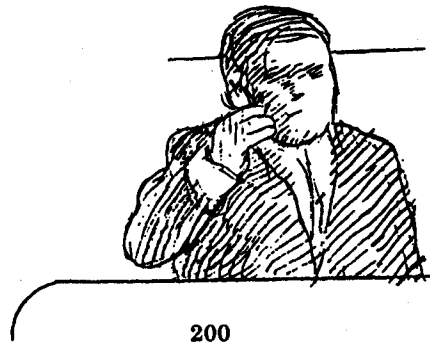
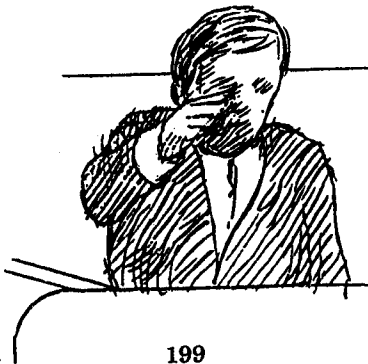
During the autopsy, Humes could find no discernable path for the bullet. It had entered at a point 5 and $\frac{3}{4}$ inches down from the President's collar and exited from a point 2 inches down from his adam's apple. Those two points do not make for a 23 degree angle. It looked like John Kennedy had been fired on from a point other than the sixth floor - lower, much lower.



The explanation for this enigma is that the bullet moved in a forward, downward and leftward trajectory. When it hit John Kennedy, his body moved with it in a forward, downward and leftward movement. As the bullet moves, the body is shoved forward along with it. The bullet goes straight, mind you. Its passage through the body is straight at the time of penetration. However, that straight passage is converted into an arc or curved passage as the body moves forward.

If the body was moving forward, and downward and leftward, however, as contained in the above thesis, why didn't the exit hole reflect that movement? Why wasn't the exit hole larger and more jagged? Later, a similar penetration of John Connally resulted in large gaping hole in his chest. This hole was small and only slightly jagged. I would suggest that the forward pitch of the Kennedy body was temporarily halted or restrained by the Lumbar-Sacral Support - the (chair back) (Taylor) brace worn by John Kennedy after his wartime injury in the Pacific, thus allowing the bullet to escape from the body through the small exit hole.

The bullet then jammed into the sturdy box pleat shirt front and literally yanked John Kennedy forward with it, until it reached a point of terminal stress, penetrated the shirt front and nicked the tie on the left side. The reaction of the Lumbar-Sacral Support to this forward stress was immediate and violent. John Kennedy's body is slammed backward in less than one-eighteenth of a second. This counter reaction occurs in frame 200. In frame 199 you can view the enormous physical thrust forward. His right hand shoots forward and his head forward and down.



In his conspiracy minded article "The Crossfire That Killed President Kennedy," the Saturday Evening Post, December 2, 1967, Josiah Thompson goes into a detailed analysis of a similar counter-reaction or head snap after the third bullet struck the president. Stripped of its confusion, the disclosure simply means that the President's head was in a given position in frame 312; was thrust forward by the fatal third shot in frame 313, and by frame 314 the backlash had already begun. With these frames as a guide it is possible to pinpoint the first hit. I would suggest no earlier than 198.

A reasonable estimate of what happened would be:

196 — Oswald fires.

197 — Bullet leaves gun.

198 — Bullet in transit.

199 — Bullet strikes the President's back.

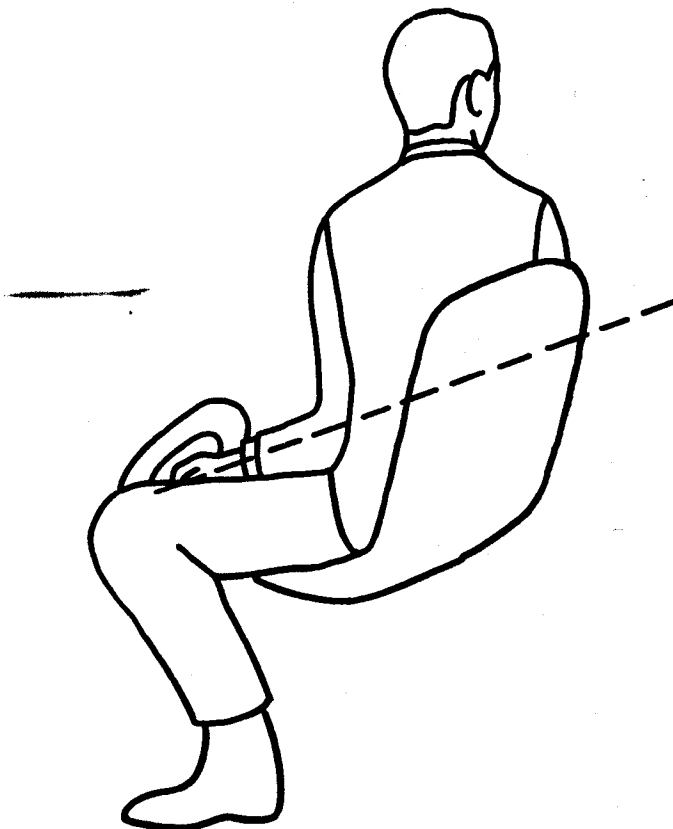
— John Kennedy thrust forward.

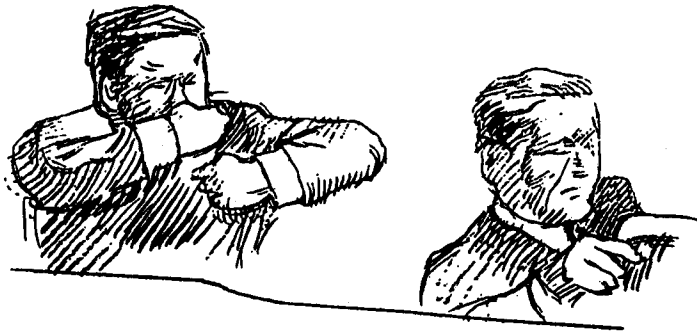
200 — The recoil of the Lumbar-Sacral brace throws John Kennedy backward against the back seat, causing eyewitnesses to conclude that he had been hit from the front. After this his right hand falls, which is the tip-off that he has been shot. In the frames that follow what initially appeared to be John Kennedy's hand waving now appears to be his forehead bobbing backward.

Where did that bullet go?

It proceeded under and past John Connally's left arm and burrowed into John Connally's left leg five inches above the knee, where it lost some of its substance.

This then is bullet number one which stayed in the leg, to fall out onto the stretcher at Parkland Hospital when they removed his trousers.





230

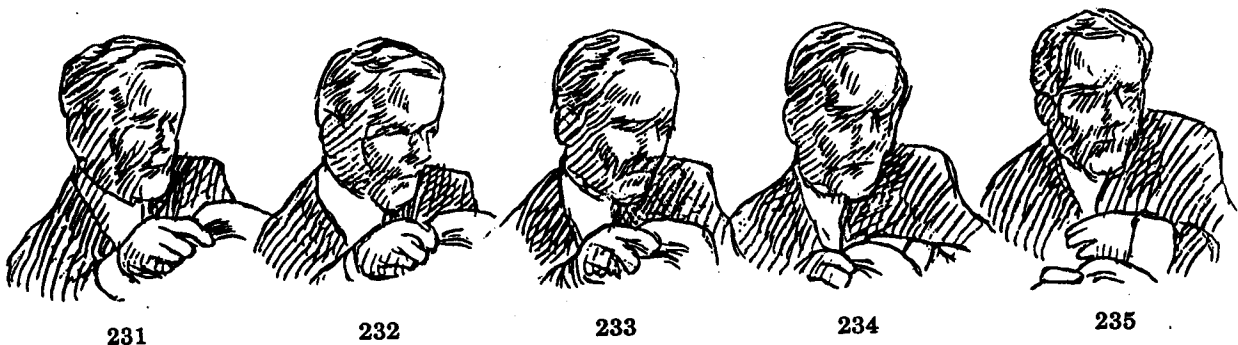
The Connally Reaction

John Connally's reaction starts in frame 230. The look on his face is one of pain. He has suffered a penetration of his left leg and is in pain. The major fake-out here, the deception that has fooled everybody, is that there are two sets of reactions on Connally's part, the first in reaction to the wound in his leg, and the second to the second shot which struck him in the back.

As the Governor had been waving with his right hand (See Life, November 24, 1967, page 90) his hat is in his left hand. He grasps the hat in his right hand and raises it to see what has happened. In 231-232-233 he raises his right hand. In 234 and 235 he continues to raise his left hand and to drop his right hand. In 236 there is a switch of hands, that is to say, the right hand drops out of sight and the left hand comes into view.

This is most important. Up to this point his right hand was not in a position to be hit by the second bullet. He now drops the hand into a position lower than his right breast and in position to be hit and shattered from the top.

In 236 his expression of horror and sharp pain is marked and he undoubtedly uttered, "oh, no, no . . ." at this point, as he realized that what he heard was a shot and indeed that he has been hit.



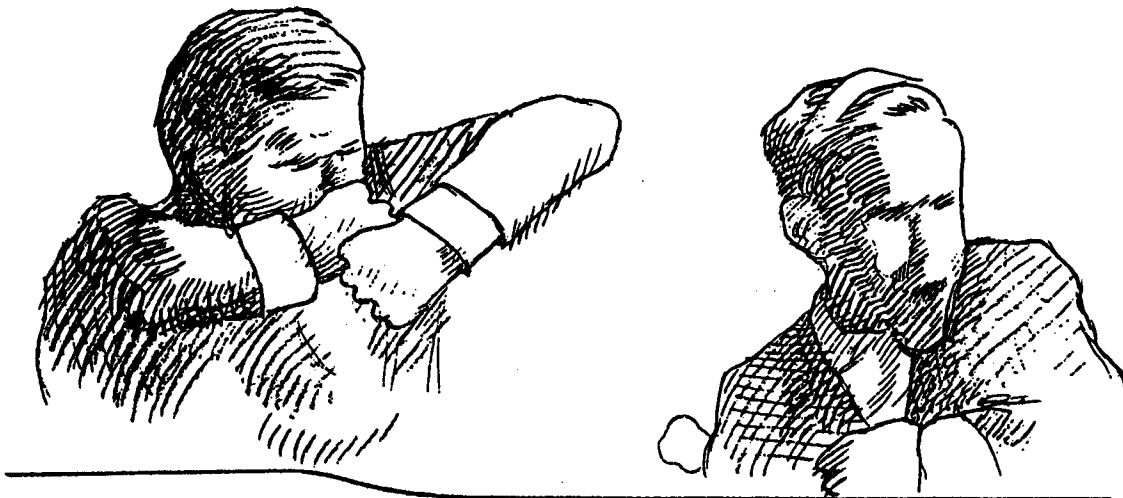
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He is slightly off balance and tilts to his right in frame 237.

He is in this position, his hand is in place, when he is forcibly struck by the second shot in frame 238. His right shoulder crumples. His right wrist is shattered and the bullet is shattered, pieces of it going into his left leg, under the left jump seat, and up his right arm.

Between 196 and 238 there are 42 frames. 18.3 into one is $.054645$. 42 times $.054645$ is 2.295090 or 2.30 seconds.

The President of the United States was struck again in frame 313. Whatever other damage was done to his person, in whatever form, was done by this last bullet. His head is thrust forward in 313, and the recoil from the brace starts in frame 314.



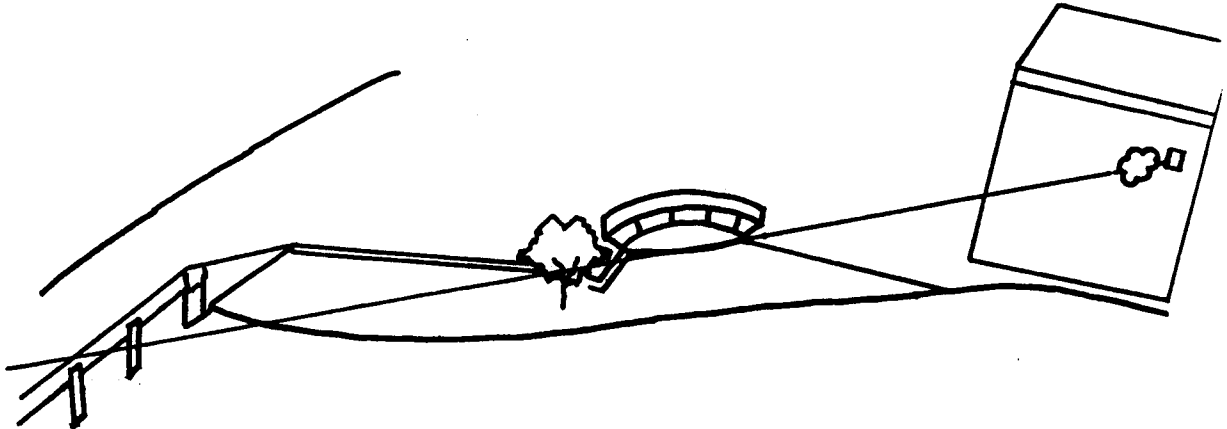
237



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Some of the Unanswered Questions

The Puff of Smoke — Simply draw a line from the position of the men on the triple overpass through the center of the tree on the grassy knoll and I believe you will find that it intersects with the sixth floor window of the Texas School Book Depository.



4 or 5 Shots — The window on the far right side of the sixth floor was open. The sound bounced off the back wall and out the window creating a double sound effect on all shots.

On page 246, in *Six Seconds in Dallas*, by Josiah Thompson, you can see a clearly defined picture of a man, and an almost defined determination of a rifle, in the third window from your right. That man is Lee Harvey Oswald.



The Mysterious Strangers? — I am sure that if the government will grant anonymity, all unidentified witnesses will come forward, if they have not dropped dead from fright. They will not come forward at this time for they fear false accusation.

This has been a most interesting case. We have seen a President slain, a President accused, a noble city damned, a State slandered, a Nation spat upon, a courageous policeman slain in the line of duty accused of conspiracy — all of it rotten.

All of this and more, because of the actions of one man who was by his own admission, a Marxist.

It has taken five or more billion years to form the earth. In six and a half seconds, Lee Harvey Oswald almost destroyed its mind.

Edmund Cooper Johnston

5 P.M., November 17, 1970
730 Leavenworth
San Francisco, California

Postscript

I must say I feel drained. I have exhausted my own powers of creativity in this matter and can proceed no further. For I can no longer face the imagery of death, indeed I will not. If what I have written is sufficient, I will be relieved. If it is not, then I must say, let be. For me, this particular journey is ended.

I would like to think that I might speak for John Kennedy when I say,

“To you I throw the torch.
Be yours to hold it high.
If you break faith, with us who die,
We shall not sleep,
Though poppies grow
In Flander’s Fields.”

Most Sincerely yours,
Edmund Cooper Johnston

November 17, 1967
Hotel David
480 Geary Street
San Francisco, California