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February 9, 1978

Mr. Edmund C.T. Johnston
1595 Odell Street, Apt. MD
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Dear Mr. Johnston:

I just received your letter and the enclosed article about your book "The Key" and I appreciate very much your writing me.

When I wrote you several days ago, I did apologize for my delay in answering your last letter and I also told you I did not clearly understand its subject matter.

First, I assure you that I will read "The Key" at the earliest possible time and I hope this coming weekend.

According to the article about your book, I think there is a misunderstanding about what you may consider my opinion to have been on the "one bullet" theory when I was serving as a member of the Warren Commission.

Senator Russell opposed the "one bullet" theory and I also opposed it. One of my reasons was that I was greatly impressed by Governor Connally's strong statement that a separate bullet had caused his wound. Also considering the fact that Oswald's rifle ordinarily would have had a cartridge in position for firing, I believe there was no real problem about the time limit for firing the three shots.

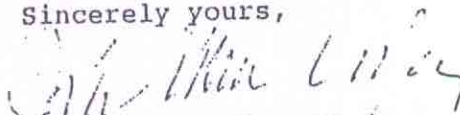
I recently read again the Summary of the 26 volumes of our Report. I think if you will study it carefully, you

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will find it leaves the matter rather open. In different sections it states there was a disagreement on this problem, but in any event we had reached the unanimous conclusion that Oswald was the sole killer and there was no conspiracy. I still hold to that conclusion.

If facts not known to us should be developed and lead to a different conclusion than ours, it would be compatible with the Warren Commission's search for the truth. I believe that our findings will stand.

Sincerely yours,


John Sherman Cooper