The New York Times Times Aquare

December 4, 1963

Dear Mr. Davidson,

. Mr. Catledge has turned over to me a copy of your letter to Mr. Sulsberger.

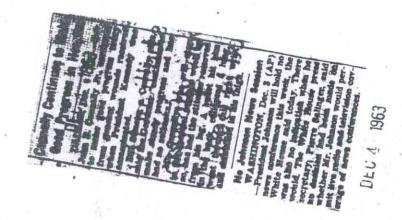
The points which you raise were ones which came to our attention very early in the painstaking inquiry which our reporters have been making into the President's death. Let me take them up in sequence.

As to the question of the President being shot in the front of his threat, it is clearly demonstrated by the film ellp from which the Life Magazine photographs were taken that the President was turning to his right at the memory of the first shot. The angle was lateral, and the first shot caught the President in the ear when he was only slightly forward of the window. The diagram which accompanied the Life Magazine pictures was deceptive insofar as the line of fire is concerned. We feel extremely certain about this point, because it has been carefully gone over and checked by Mr. Oscar Godbout, our Field and Stream Editor, who has marshalled the best sharpshooting specialists on this particular point.

On the question of the bullets -- only three bullets have been recovered. Only three shots were fired. One bullet was recovered from the President's body, one was found on the stretcher, and one was found shattered in the car. There were three empty cartridge cases found on the sixth flocr of the book depository building. There is no evidence whatever that more than three shots were fired.

As to the transcripts or records of the interrogation, there is no indication whatever that they have been destroyed. We feel confident that they will be presented, either in the F.B.I. report or the President's Commission report.

It is certainly true that it is possible that Oswald did not kill the President. It is possible that Oswald was the scapegoat of a conspiracy. But I will say with all the force at my command that the most minute and exhaustive investigation of every clue and suspicion which



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has come to the attention of our very alert team of reporters (and we have from six to 12 men working on this story every day) has failed to support any version other than the one with which you are familiar, namely that Oswald did kill the President, that it was an individual act, and that his slaying was also an individual event.

With every good wish,

Harrison E. Salisbury Director of National Correspondence

Mr. Leon Davidson 64 Prospect Street White Plains, New York 10606

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Questions Why Details Overlooked In Warren Report Considerations

To The Reporter Dispatch:

With the release of the full testimony and other exhibits of the Warren Commission hearings, there will be many questions raised as details becomeknown which were formerly obscured in the Warren Report Itself. Granted that the average person couldn't care less about these details, nevertheless it seems fitting to examine carefully those points which seem to support belief that a conspiracy was responsible for staging the assassination.

One detail of the testimony (out of hundreds of equally intriguing obscured points) is that. the Commission staff chose to use a map of the Oak tilff area of Dallas (in Exhib.' No. 1119 A. p. 158, Report) which entirely omits the name from Lancaster Ave. (For those interested, this is the street lying between Marsalis and Ewing.) The large words "Fifth", "Sixth", "Sevwords "Fifth", "Sixth", "Sev-enth" and "Eighth" occupy the space where the name "Lan-caster" should be found. Cu-riously enough the word "Av." remains on the map, along Lancaster, between Comal St. and Addison St. The full length of Lancaster Ave. in Oak Cliff shows on the map as reproduced, so the name must have been there originally.

Why is Lancaster Ave. so important in the events of Nov. 22, 1963? Simply because Officer Tippit, in his police car "with No. 10 prominently displayed on each side", was at the corner of LANCASTER and Eighth St. at 6 minutes to 1 o'clock, (See p. 165.) That corner happens to be only 8 blocks away from Oswald's rooming house on N. Beckley Ave.

The testimony of the housekseper at the rooming house (see p. 253) is that she saw a Dallas police car at about 1 P.M., while Oswald was briefly in the house getting his jacket. The number of this police car began with "10", as ahe recollects it, and the car drove slowly by, stopplng momentarily in front of the house and honking its horn several times. Before Oswald came out, the car had left.

While this police car could have been Tippit's car, it probably was not, although the connection is quite remarkable, since the Commission found that no other police car was in the neighborhood of the rooming house at 1 PM. (See p. 253.) Tippit could have been driven the eight blocks to the house in the sight blocks to the house in the sit minutes available. Tippit was alone, whereas the housekcept's new several occupants in the police car, but there is no avidence that the Commission tried to find them for questioning. The Commission was sut of ing way to say that there is me evidence that a police car was in the neighborhood of the rooming house about 1 p.m., other than the housekeeper's swora testimony to them and to the F.B.I. Since the official Commission conclusion is that Oswald had no accomplices and that nobody in the police department was working with him, is this a case of stretching the reported facts to fit the conclusion?

DEC. 8,1964

Unfortunately for our country's future, the Warren Commission Report is permeated with such instances of cavalier meatment of reported facts, and obscuration of relations. During the next few years, these instances may give rise to numerous articles and discussions which would result in unjustly (I repeat. UNJUSTLY) pointing the finer of suspicion at the very heads of the executive and judiclary branches of our national government. I believe the blame lies with the staff, and not the leaders.

A more probable area exists than those just mentioned, in which to seek out the cause of the assassination, if indeed there was a conspiracy. Quasimilitary mea, who have masiered the craft of psychologically quite capable of attenuing a deed such as the assassination and getting away with it. Are we quite sure that all such men in Washington are morally utterly incapable of such dastardly action? Might they have done it if they honestly believed that President Kennedy was not acting in the best interests of the country, in attempting to reach an accommodation with the Russians, to allow "co-existence"?

It would be mast infortunate if we should find out that the Warren Commission Report had appeared to try to cover up the existence of such a commission

existence of such a compiracy. The public must learn more about the domestic (non-intellisouth the definition of our so-called "intelligence agencies", so that, despite their limitiese budgets, their secret use of Foundations and dumpny corporations, their penetration of the military "Special Forces" and military "Special Forces" and the radio and preas services, ... so that, despite all this, they are not unwittingly permitted to undermine and overthrow what is left of democracy in our country. The growing attempt by the Defense Intelligence Agency (an arm of the Pentagon) to dis-credit the C.I.A. (not under Pentagon control) is of relevance in AILtinin. .011 Dull the C.I.A. by the 160 ALL HAND

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