

The New York Times

Times Square

December 4, 1963

Dear Mr. Davidson,

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

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 throat, it is clearly demonstrated by the film clip from which the Life Magazine photographs were taken that the President was turning to his right at the moment 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 floor 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

DEC. 8, 1964

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 become known 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 Cliff area of Dallas (in Exhibit 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", "Seventh" and "Eighth" occupy the space where the name "Lancaster" should be found. Curiously 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 housekeeper 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 she recollects it, and the car drove slowly by, stopping 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 P.M. (See p. 253.) Tippit could have been driven the eight blocks to the house in the six minutes available, Tippit was alone, whereas the housekeeper saw several occupants in the police car, but there is no evidence that the Commission tried to find them for questioning. The Commission went out of its way to say that there is no evidence that a police car was

in the neighborhood of the rooming house about 1 p.m., other than the housekeeper's sworn 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?

Unfortunately for our country's future, the Warren Commission Report is permeated with such instances of cavalier treatment 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 finger of suspicion at the very heads of the executive and judiciary 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. Quasi-military men, who have mastered the craft of psychological warfare, are technologically quite capable of executing 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 most unfortunate if we should find out that the Warren Commission Report had appeared to try to cover up the existence of such a conspiracy.

The public must learn more about the domestic (non-intelligence) operations of our so-called "intelligence agencies", so that, despite their limitless budgets, their secret use of Foundations and dummy corporations, their penetration of the military "Special Forces" and the radio and press 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 discredit the C.I.A. (not under Pentagon control) is of relevance in this connection, since Allen Dulles was removed as head of the C.I.A. by the late President Kennedy.

LEON SAVAGE
64 Franklin St.
White Plains