

Dear Paul, W

5/13/77

When you phoned earlier this week to tell me of the radio news item about a skilled marksman offering the theory that the Secret Service killed JFK by accident I knew nothing about it. By a phone call from the reporter responsible this afternoon I know more.

The story you heard came from the AP's A wire, not his paper. They are pleased to have attracted this and much more attention, from the National Enquirer to prestigious papers abroad.

There was a two-part Sunday Series in the Baltimore Sun, a very conservative paper. With a policy against this subject, by and large.

I held two seminars for members of the staff on Sundays, in Baltimore, in 1966 and I think also 1967. They could do feature stories on me but not news stories on my work.

One of the experts CBS used in its tests for its videowhitewashes is the expert the Sun used. I think his name is Donahue. He appears to be the only one who could get the shots off in time and on target. Target being improved over Dallas.

But without doubt he has to be a really fantastic shot. He is the one who theorized, as you reported, that by accident the Secret Service hit JFK.

I'll be getting copies of the stories and can provide them. I'd be surprised if these were not in the Sunday Magazine section.

Oddly, although many around here get the Sun, nobody told me of these stories. How did these people find out about me this time?

Farout!

The used FOIA to try and get the spectro from the FBI. When they got nothing management decided to use lawyers, I presume prestigious for Baltimore.

And all they got was that the FBI had let me see the tapes and that was that.

The reporter phoned here when I was in DC with Jim. He reached me there. I don't think I persuaded him that there are no tapes on spectro, are on NAAs. He'd never heard of them but was convinced that in spectro there is a computer that spews out numbers on ribbons of paper.

What did get through to him is that a) I offered him all I obtained and b) I offered to let the Sun join in my suit, Jim willing (as he said he was later), if they want in.

His expert thinks the bullet was I think he told me an AK16. Maybe AK15. Now what fascinates me about this is that a buff among my correspondences long ago postulated that this kind of bullet was fatal. Maybe not this particular number but one of the species. I told the reporter to go back to his expert with the phrase I recalled from my correspondent's letters, hydrostatic pressure. The reporter understood this and seemed excited.

If I am by no means sure it is possible for the Secret Service to have shot JFK and am reasonably confident no agent in the followup car could have whipped out a rifle of any kind without any one of hundreds of witnesses recalling it. I certainly am pleased that a wealthy, prestigious and conservative paper in my own state was interested enough and determined enough to try to use FOIA. (Maybe I'll get Jim a paying client on FOIA!) Unless it were to be any article for which I'd be paid and could use the pay for other FOIA work I'd not use any further data I get in my own writing. I always planned to give it away anyway, so there is no real sacrifice in letting the Sun have it as it would in joining the suit. If it does, if it does not it will be more than a year before it can hope for anything, if it gets it then without help from us.

Do not take this as expectation of anything in particular. However, I do think that given the political perspective of the Sun it represents a major change in an influential paper, one that can wash off on other papers if the Times and Post did not use the AP's story, and may be the only case of a major paper using FOIA, or trying to use it, for basic JFK evidence.

Their expert appears to have made use of Post Mortem on the Clark panel report and on what Howard first caught, the 6.5 mm fragment shown on X-rays in the back of the head.

The reporter is off next week. He indicated he may come here so I invited him and his shooting expert, both.

There is a nice coincidence in us having the same judge who messed up the corruption trial of Maryland's governor! Best