

March 1, 1970

Dear Rich, *Edelman*.

Glad to get your letter of Feb. 20.

Kollmar will probably remain silent, but it is better to have tried. Also, bear in mind that sometimes events change people's attitudes on giving info, so the fact that he has stuffed your letter into a drawer somewhere may be more important than it now seems. This may well, at present, be an insoluble problem. Let us not, however, in dropping it, forget that your work on it was quite valuable. One must sometimes check many leads before one produces, or one proves insoluble. Those which produce nothing are just as important work as those which do not, because one cannot predict beforehand. Sometimes, if we are lucky, we can disprove our suspicions. That too is valuable. I say this because sometimes people forget the importance of checking things out or get discouraged when they get stuck. Killgallen has now been dealt with to the extent of our present ability. Bear in mind also how important this will be if new info comes our way on her.

On Thornley's testimony, order it by writing: Mark G. Eckhoff, National Archives and Records Service, 8th and Pennsylvania Avenues NW, Washington, D. C. 20408. Tell him that you are writing concerning the records of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, and that you would like a xerox or electrostatic copy of the original ~~#####~~ typescript of the testimony of Kerry Thornley. Tell him to bill you for it, or write you of its cost so that you can send a check to reach them before they have mailed out the order. If you don't get Thornley's book soon, I will try again.

Flammonde, Garrison, and now Lane (plus Sahl who is not even a dritic) do not connect their "plots" with Dealy Plaza. Harold and the rest of us do not claim to have solved the case. When Harold, myself, or others speak publicly or write about people who may be connected, we never allege actual conspiracy meetings, etc. We are usually discussing those who are natural suspects due to connections with Oswald or others, or things they have done. None of the rest of us claims to know who did it and most of us are merely asking for an investigation. We do point out the fact that people in the CIA, military, FBI, etc. all are suspects in various ways, although not necessarily suspect for direct involvement. We are not equipped to break the case in this fashion. Until the Shaw trial when we ourselves saw what Garrison had on him many of us hoped that he did have a convincing case. Now we find ourselves in a quandry, because there are many unanswered questions about Shaw. Always remember, Rich, that Flammonde, Garrison, and even Lane now are in many ways not a part of the dritic community, although almost all of us helped Jim in some way or another.

On your specific Dealy Plaza questions:

1. Knowledge of the motorcade route: we won't know this until we know who actually planned it, but suffice it to say that many had such access, and some of them are among our suspects.
2. LHO may well have been only one of a number of potential patsies, and so how he got his job may be only part of the story.
3. They did not escape unnoticed: 1 Forward position: a. Men arrested later, some held until 8 days after Oswald's death could have been involved and actually captured
  - b. sewers which were never searched
  - c. car trunks which were never searched (i.e. SM Holland pointed out a set of footprints which led up to one trunk)
  - d. JC Price on the roof of the terminal annex saw a man run away from the fence right after the shots
  - e. Patrolman JM Smith caught a guy getting away, but let him go after he showed Secret Service identification--but there were no SS men in the area according to the SS and independent checks by Us. Smith pulled his

gun# on him and everything (there are two other police reports of an SS man in the yards)  
My theory: They walked right off with SS credentials, fake or real. Let's face it, Bowers saw them there, and they got away right after the shots (i.e. Price's affidavit). If someone chose that moment to impersonate a federal agent and walk away from the knoll rather than towards it where everyone else was going, he would be a pretty good suspect.

2. Rear position--TSBD: a. James Russell Worreal saw a short, thickset guy in a brown suit run out of the back door of the TSBD after the shots b. Richard R. Carr saw a guy of the same description walking rapidly, and anxiously, away from the TSBD down Houston, and the guy looked like, to him, the guy of that description he had seen in a 6th floor window of the TSBD just before the shots c. Carr followed him for about 2 blocks and saw him get into a station wagon of a particular description d. 5 min. or so later Deputy Sheriff Roger Craig and JR Robinson see a station wagon of that description pull a fast pickup of a guy who looks like Oswald but who is wearing the same kind of clothing worn by the guy on the 6th floor (according to Brennan, Walthers, and Rowland) and drives away with him.

3. Rear position--other buildings--not sealed off, although a guy from the Dal Tex was grabbed by the cops after people in a 3rd floor window pointed him out.

So, basically, I think that we have an amazing amount of testimony (especially considering how few witnesses testified of the total # in Dealy Plaza) concerning the possible escapes of the men. (If you want to see this mapped out, see Tink Thompson's Six Seconds in Dallas which you can now get from Marboro Books in NY or some other outlets for only \$1.00.)

Perfect frame on LHO: See Weisberg's accounts, in Whitewash I and II, of the false Oswald. Unfortunately, no one has really put all of this in one book, and Harold has much more on it which is unpublished, partly because some of it must remain confidential until it has been exhausted as a source of further information. I do not agree that the frame was perfect, and feel that they could not even have indicted Oswald for the actual shooting had it ever come before a judge or grand jury. In fact, I feel that in some places it was incredibly sloppy.

On your questions on Abe Bolden, there have been many attempts to contact him, and Lane and Alcock did interview him in prison, but they didn't learn anything. He and his wife are scared and don't answer letters. We don't even know where he is now, since he is no longer in Springfield. Enclosed is a letter concerning him and a memo--please keep them confidential. Bolden's story about his trial is completely honest--I have seen both the trial transcript of Spagnoli's trial and the news accounts of his. Spagnoli, the main witness against him, swore under oath that he had lied at Bolden's trial, and that perjury had been suborned by a government attorney in order to help convict Bolden. Fantastic but absolutely true is that part of it. We have no way ~~one~~ of checking the rest. Some question his claims, but one thing is certain: his life has undergone some marked changes since he opened his mouth. Both Harold and I have made many attempts to help he and his wife, but he does not reply. Mark Lane, unfortunately, never did anything. I confronted him about this failure (after he put the spotlight on Bolden in his book, it was unforgivable) and he didn't even know where Bolden was! My informant, by the way, is a draft resister, and he was deemed effective enough in that role to rate being sent to Springfield, where they send all serious threats to the system.

Well, I've got to go. Best wishes.

cc: Harold Weisberg

PS: I got 3 samples of a school paper (looks like elementary school) from Pat Evans, but no letter. It looks like she's no longer working at Ithaca High. Have you seen her at all?