

HAROLD WEISBERG

7627 Old Receiver Rd.
Frederick, MD 21702

12/10/93

Mr. Tom Alyea
P.O. Box 4266
Tulsa, OK 74159

Dear Mr. Alyea,

As Gary Mack told you, I am looking for the first picture taken or as close to that as I can get of the rifle as found. As you remembered, I had printed one from a commission volume in my first book. I did not turn or distort it. I printed it the way the Commission did. While that is not a clear picture, if it is examined closely it is clear that the picture does not reflect that the rifle was standing on its butt, which Gary indicated you thought I was trying to show. Nothing like that! I just want to show it as it was left. I had heard that you photographed it before Studebaker and thus I believed that your photographs, frames, would be more likely to depict it before it was touched. And certainly be clearer!

Gary said that one of the detectives used your camera for you. I remember that Constable Weitzman and was if Deputy Mooney posted guard so it would not be touched. So, I think it is likely that what you have on film was before Studebaker shot any. That is my interest, plus the fact that the pictures in the Archives are terrible. I want to use it to illustrate the testimony by the two above, nothing else.

Gary told me the ^ymuzzle end is not included. My interest is not in showing the entire rifle, although that would be better. I just want to show how it ~~is~~ was when it was found, before it or anything around it was touched or moved.


Its relationship to the boxes, things like that, too.

You may not be aware of it but there is no theorizing in any of my books. To the degree possible I avoid any contact with those who think that whether or not there was a conspiracy is a matter of theory.

If you'll be kind enough to let me have a print I'll appreciate it. Tell me the cost and I'll send you a check. And if you do, please indicate how to credit it. If I understood Gary correctly and you were not allowed to do it yourself, that can, I think, indicate police responsibility in being that careful and if you'll give me a brief account of that I may want to include it. Credit where credit is due, too.

If you are kind enough to do this, please make it two prints.

Thanks, sincerely,


Harold Weisberg

HAROLD WEISBERG

7627 Old Receiver Rd.
Frederick, MD 21702

1/27/94

Mr. Tom Alyea
P.O. Box 4266
Tulsa, OK 74159

Dear Mr. Alyea,

It is both a surprise and a disappointment that you have not responded to my letter of about six weeks ago or made a print of the picture I requested available.

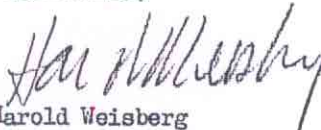
As you know, I asked for that picture for a book and as you know, there are no theories in my books. I want to present an actuality of an important detail in an important part of our history and you are exercising the right to suppress that.

I'm disappointed that you take this position, and I'm surprised that anyone who considers himself a journalist would.

I'm sorely tempted to include a footnote on the substitute I'll be forced to use along with the description given me of the one you can supply and the statement that you refused to do that.

This attitude toward our history comes with poor grace, I think, from one who had so little regard for it he did nothing to prevent the destruction of most of the was it five reels of film you and you alone were able to take at the scene of the crime, and as a result all of that was just thrown away.

Regretfully,


Harold Weisberg

I do not think you have forgotten, but if you have, my interest is in a picture showing the rifle as it was found.

December 29, 1993

Dear Harold:

It was nice to hear from you! I'm glad that you've read the book. I hope that it may have helped you in some way.

Rusty and I would be happy to let you use his photograph in your book. I've had a local photo lab do a copy of DP #22 from page 163 of my book and enclosed it for you. I've also included 2 negatives of the same photo.

I had the man at the lab include the white border around Rusty's original photo in order to not lose any of the periphery detail. You might want to trim around the photo (or have your book printer do so) to get a nicer looking finished product.

If you decide to use the photo in your book, I would appreciate you giving credit underneath or by it by stating "from *JFK First Day Evidence* by Gary Savage."

Good luck to you, and let me know if I might be of any further help.

Sincerely,



Gary Savage
P.O. Box 2741
Monroe, LA 71207-2741

(318) 322-4081

Gary Savage
P.O. Box 2741
Monroe, LA 71207-2741

1/3/94

Dear Gary,

Thanks for your letter of the 29th, the enclosed picture and all the trouble you went to. I'll attach your letter to it to see to it that it is credited properly. Even though reproduced from a published copy it is clearer than those in the Commission's files and books.

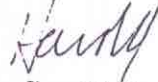
There were a couple of other pictures that in some instances did not show the entire weapon that, if possible, I'd also like to have copies of. There was more paper obscuring the rifle to all but the most careful search that were removed by the time this one was taken. That also is something I'd like to be able to show, how well it was hidden.

If Rysty had them I'd be glad to pay for prints. Photographic rather than published because in publishing photogravures dots are used and when printing from that it appears as moire. It is possible to use the offset camera to eliminate those dots but that adds to the cost and diminished clarity a bit.

I also appreciate the time and care to assure that the picture reached here without being bent. It did, too!

Thanks for your good wishes. I hope you and the rest of us have a good year.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg

January 11, 1994

Dear Harold:

I'm happy that the photograph arrived intact! That particular view of the rifle as it was found (DP #22) is the only original print that Rusty has left.


The other photograph that appeared in the book on page 164 (the one that has Detective Studebaker's knee in the lower right) was borrowed from another retired officer for reproduction in the book. He did not want me to use his name for photo credit, and I therefore did not. You may be able to obtain copies of other photographs from the newly opened files at the Dallas Police Department. I'm not sure of their procedures for that type of thing however, since I did not use them in my work.

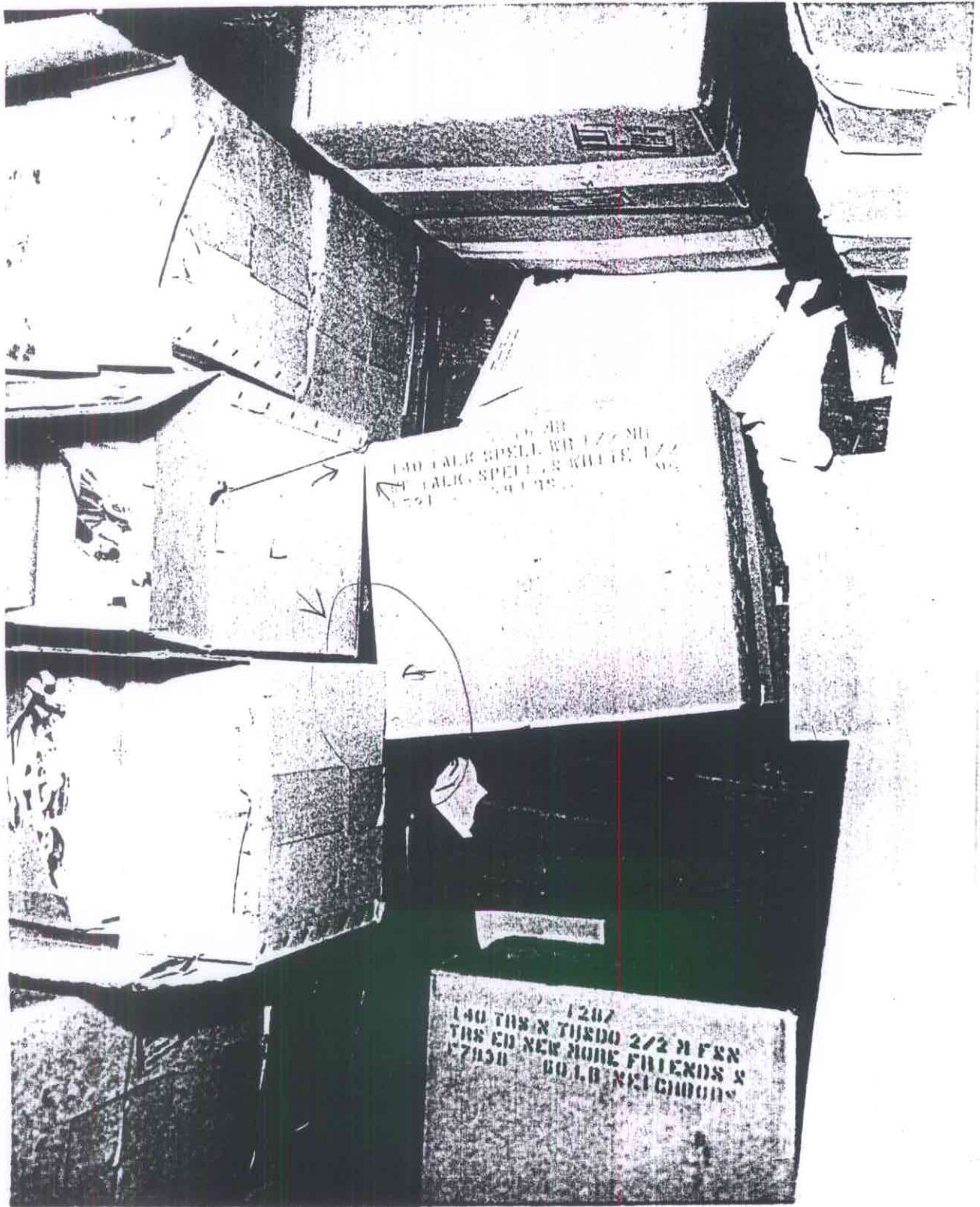
I am not aware that any other photographs of the rifle (as it lay on the floor) were taken. I believe that the area around the rifle was sealed off by Sheriff Deputies as soon as it was located, and no one touched the rifle until Lieutenant Day of the Dallas Police Crime Lab came over and made the photograph you have, along with a few additional exposures. This includes the Studebaker knee photograph. There were probably 4 photographs taken of the rifle as it was lying on the floor by Lieutenant Day and Detective Studebaker at that time, with only 2 of the best noted on the map shown on page 146. Also, I know you are aware that a newsman named Tom Alyea was filming on 16 mm black and white film as these photographs were being taken by the Crime Lab men.

As I said, I don't know of anyone else photographing the rifle as it was found, other than the Dallas Crime lab. It was removed by Lieutenant Day immediately thereafter and taken down to the Police Department evidence room and locked up. The paper obscuring the rifle that you mention could only have been the boxes shown in DP #22 that the rifle was wedged between. There is a rear view of this area shown on page 176, Photo 67, which you might want to take a look at and compare to your photo. The only other thing I can think of you may be referring to may be the paper bag used to conceal the rifle as it was brought into the Depository. Rusty had no photograph of the bag, and therefore none was included in the book. This is discussed on pages 154-156.

I hope I've helped. Anyway, if there's something I've not made clear, just write me again and maybe it'll sink in the second time around. I hope you have a happy 1994!

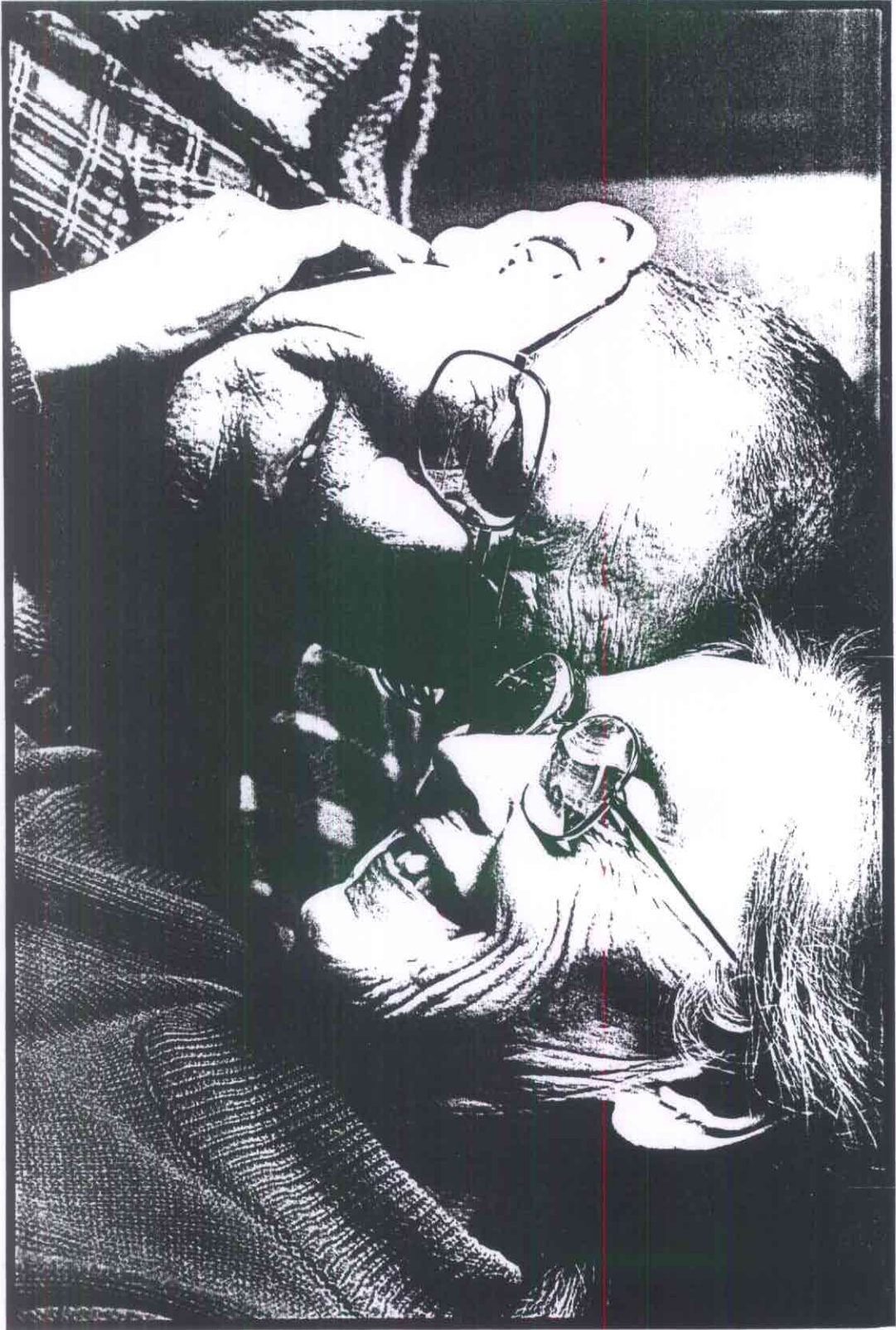
Sincerely,

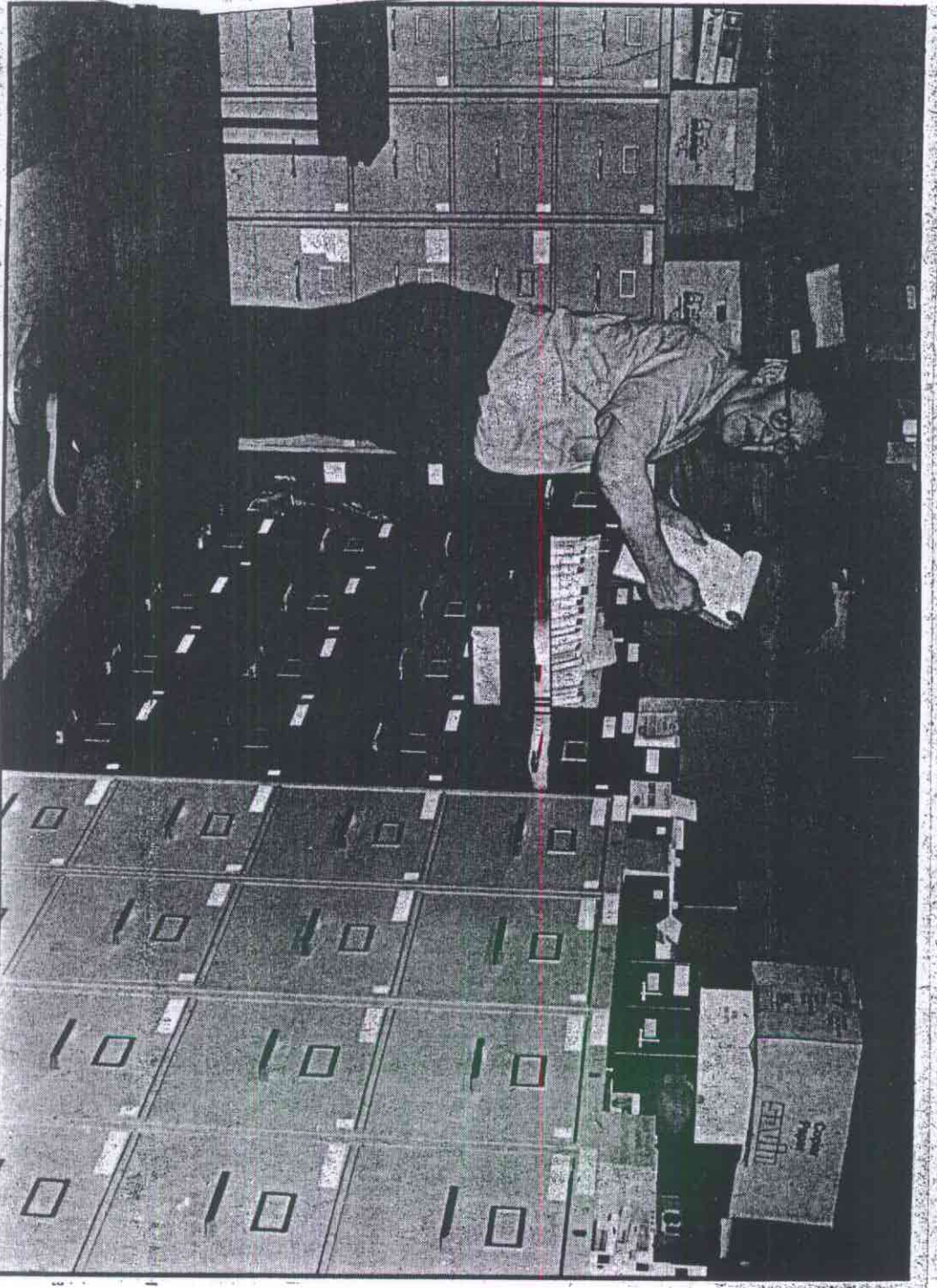

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140 TALK SPELL R WHITE 122

140 TBS X 1207
TBS ED XER HOME FRIENDS X
17050 BOLD XEL CHOOD





Harold Welsberg and some of the approximately 60 file cabinets that line the walls of his basement.

Photos by Sylvia Long

20 years later

Weisberg still digging into Kennedy assassination

The Morning Herald
Hagerstown, Md.
Monday, October 31, 1983