

ML

4/13/67

Dear Mr. Kencht,

Thanks for your letter of several days ago to which I can make only brief reply. My next book is too far behind schedule for extensive correspondence.

We cannot tell where Altgens was at Frame 255 by where he was at 315 or any later point. There is reason to believe he may have been more onto the grass than he recalled, perhaps where his bag was.

The caption on the picture was written in too-great haste and makes a positive statement I should not have made and did not intend making unequivocally. Examine it as the text states it: If Liebler is right then the other things now follow. Now I ask you to recall all the evidence mastered on the things every lawyer knows better than to do, the thing every lawyer knows to do, and compare with what Liebler did and did not do with the various photographic witnesses. My point is the integrity of the evidence, for both the Commission and us.

I wish I had time to go into this at greater length but just cannot. The entire mess with pictures is far from public. I will have much more in WHITEWASH III.

Thanks,

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg



MR. HAROLD WEISBERG:

I HAVE JUST FINISHED READING  
WHITEWASH II. I AGREE TOTALLY  
WITH YOUR STATEMENTS PROVING THAT  
WILLIS'S FIFTH PICTURE CORRESPONDS  
TO ZAPRUDER'S FRAME NUMBER 202.  
I ALSO AGREE THAT IT IS PROBABLE  
THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS FIRST HIT  
PRIOR TO FRAME 202 AND AT OR  
NEAR 190.

HOWEVER, I MUST DISAGREE COMPLETELY  
WITH ALL YOUR ANALYSIS DESCRIBING  
THE ROAD STRIPE, VISIBLE UNDER THE  
CAR CARRYING THE PRESIDENT, AS  
BEING THE FOURTH ONE ON ELM  
FROM HOUSTON.

YOUR ENTIRE ANALYSIS IS BASED ON  
LOCATING ALTGENS OPPOSITE THE  
FIFTH ROAD STRIPE. THE FACT THAT  
LIEBELER PLACED HIM THERE IS  
MEANINGLESS, AND YOU, OF ALL  
PEOPLE, SHOULD KNOW THAT. ALTGENS  
WAS, IN FACT, PAST THE SIXTH ROAD  
STRIPE AND PROBABLY HALF WAY  
BETWEEN THE SIXTH AND SEVENTH,  
ON THE SOUTH CURB.



ALTGENS DOES NOT APPEAR IN THE ZAPRUDER FRAMES UNTIL AFTER FRAME 334, BY YOUR OWN ADMISSION. HOWEVER, THE CAR WAS DIRECTLY OPPOSITE ZAPRUDER AT FRAME 315. DIRECTLY OPPOSITE MEANS THE CAR AND THE SOUTH CURB ARE PERPENDICULAR TO ZAPRUDER'S LINE OF VISION. IF THE SOUTH CURB IS PERPENDICULAR, SO IS A ROAD STRIPE (OR A LINE BETWEEN STRIPES). NOW, LOOKING AT THE AERIAL PHOTO ON PAGE 247 OF WHITEWASH II, A LINE PERPENDICULAR TO THE SOUTH CURB PASSING THROUGH ZAPRUDER TOUCHES THE EAST EDGE OF THE SIXTH ROAD STRIPE. SINCE ALTGENS APPEARS AFTER FRAME 315 (IN FACT, AFTER 334), HE IS DEFINITELY OPPOSITE THE SIXTH ROAD STRIPE OR FURTHER WEST. IF 340 IS A GOOD APPROXIMATION OF THE FRAME THAT CENTERS HIM (THERE IS NO WAY OF BEING CERTAIN) ON THE TOP LEFT OF PAGE 27 OF THE NOVEMBER 29, 1963, ISSUE OF LIFE MAGAZINE, HE IS 25 FRAMES PAST ZAPRUDER AND PAST THE EAST EDGE OF THE SIXTH ROAD STRIPE. AT 18.3 (OR 24) FRAMES PER SECOND, THIS IS 22 (OR 16) FEET AT 11.2 MPH. CAR VELOCITY. THE STRIPES APPEAR



3.

TO BE ABOUT A CAR LENGTH LONG AND THE SPACES BETWEEN STRIPES ABOUT ONE AND A HALF CAR LENGTHS.

AN AVERAGE CAR LENGTH IS ABOUT 15 FEET, THUS ALTGENS IS AT LEAST ONE FOOT (OR 7 FEET) WEST OF THE WEST EDGE OF THE SIXTH ROAD STRIPE. THEREFORE, HE IS BETWEEN THE SIXTH AND SEVENTH ROAD STRIPES. FURTHERMORE, I BELIEVE CALLING THIS FRAME 340 IS CONSERVATIVE AND IT IS PROBABLY CLOSER TO 345.

FURTHER CORROBORATION OF THIS IS THE ALTGENS PHOTO ITSELF. AT THE BOTTOM RIGHT HAND CORNER OF THE COMPLETE PICTURE (PGS. 244 AND 245, WHITEWASH II) ONE CAN SEE THE CURB (SOUTH) LINE AND THE LINE MADE WHERE THE CONCRETE MEETS THE ASPHALT (A FOOT OR TWO OUT FROM THE CURB). THIS CONCRETE - ASPHALT LINE IS DEFINITELY "S" SHAPED. AT THE VERY BOTTOM, IT IS CURVING BACK TO THE LEFT.

THE ONLY WAY THAT THIS INFLECTION IN THE CURVE (THE MID-POINT OF THE "S") COULD BE VISIBLE IS FOR ALTGENS TO BE STANDING WEST OF THE INFLECTION, AND BY QUITE A DISTANCE AT THAT. THE POINT OF INFLECTION, FROM THE



4.

AERIAL SHOT, APPEARS OPPOSITE THE WEST EDGE OF THE FIFTH ROAD STRIPE. IF YOU PLACE A HORIZONTAL LINE (PARALLEL TO THE BOTTOM OF THE FRAME) ON ALTGENS PHOTO, THROUGH THE WEST EDGE OF THE STRIPE THE PRESIDENTIAL CAR IS ON, YOU WILL NOTE THAT THIS ALSO PASSES THROUGH THE MID-POINT OF THE "S". THUS, THIS PROVES THAT ALTGENS IS UNDENIABLY QUITE A WAYS WEST OF THE WEST EDGE OF THE FIFTH STRIPE AND THAT THE STRIPE UNDER THE PRESIDENTIAL CAR IS THE FIFTH.

IF YOU LOCATE ALTGENS BETWEEN THE SIXTH AND SEVENTH STRIPES, ON THE CURB (IN THE AERIAL PHOTO) AND LINE IT UP WITH SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE DEPOSITORY BUILDING, YOU WILL CROSS THE FOURTH ROAD STRIPE. IF YOU DRAW A VERTICAL LINE ON THE ALTGENS PHOTO ALONG THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE DEPOSITORY, YOU MUST, THEN, CROSS THE FOURTH STRIPE. YOU WILL SEE THAT WHERE THE FOURTH STRIPE SHOULD BE THE FOLLOW-UP CAR IS. OBVIOUSLY, THE FOLLOW-UP CAR COVERS THE FOURTH STRIPE.



IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE ENTIRE ROAD STRIPE DISCUSSION IN BOTH WHITEWASH AND WHITEWASH II WAS AN UNNECESSARY DIVERSION AND HAS MOST PROBABLY LED MANY PEOPLE TO A WRONG CONCLUSION.

OTHER THAN WHAT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED ABOVE, I HAVE ENJOYED YOUR WORK (AND YOUR TALKS ON HARU MORGAN'S SHOWS) VERY MUCH.

I NOTICED THAT YOUR EPILOGUES GENERALLY DISCUSS RECENT WORKS AND STATEMENTS BY PEOPLE CONCERNING THE REPORT. I SUGGEST YOU MAY ENLIVEN THE EPILOGUE TO WHITEWASH III (IF THERE WILL BE ONE!) WITH A BIT OF LASHING OUT AT A BOOK I'VE READ, "THE TRUTH ABOUT THE ASSASSINATION", BY CHARLES ROBERTS. IT'S UNBELIEVABLE!

James J. Knecht  
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