

4/2/75

Mr. Tom Szymon, Counsel
Administrative Practice Subcommittee
Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Tom,

This is another of those because-someone-ought-to-know letters. I write it in early-morning haste to be able to mail it when I take my wife into Frederick to work.

As I expected the FBI has not delivered a complete spectrographic analysis. It also appears that they have given me none of the neutron-activation test. They showed me one file on it much thicker than all they have delivered. Jim picked the stuff up, made copies and mailed me one I might receive today.

Because the ghost of Hoover lingers and with it clings to his method of always doing the self-justifying they have included a carbon of one of his letters of which I wrote more than 10 years ago from the original. If the late sainted followed practice and his successors also did then they will have added a provocative touch by masking parts, those showing where the carbon went.

In this letter Hoover deals with what is called the "missed" shot, one Hoover ignored in his original and supposedly definitive report. I spotted that the first time I had access to any of this material. He knew he could not deal with this missed shot and have a viable explanation in Oswald or anyone else as a lone assassin. So to cover himself he wrote the Commission a letter about the problem without saying here is our problem. That shot was many feet too high and had to have been fired long, within the time frame, after the President was killed.

I believe I told you that from other evidence that is entirely beyond any questions I have established certain facts and ruled others entirely out. This is one of the reasons I sued for these tests. I knew what they have to show and can't show.

The FBO pretended for about nine months that it could not find the curbstone hit by this "missed" shot. Then it ~~pretended~~ pretended that weather would have destroyed the evidence. When it had no choice it took that curbstone up and to Washington and ran tests. That is one set I did get.

You should understand that the official mythology is that all shots were fired from Oswald alone from a certain window, using three military-type, hard-jacketed bullets. These jackets, required by the Geneva convention, are of a copper alloy. Some call them brass. Well, there is no trace of copper on that curbstone from these long-suppressed tests.

In itself this means the end of the official explanation. It also means that those who cooked it up, Hoover in particular, knew it was a phoney, a completely impossible explanation. There is no way that a copper-jacketed bullet could have caused that curbstone mark. There is no way for any bullet to have been fired from that window and lost its copper jacket and still have hit that curbstone. Nothing for it to hit except air that could fragment it. And air doesn't. It is physically impossible for that point of impact to have been reached by a ~~ricocheting~~ ricocheting fragment. What this means is what I have known all along, a different point of origin for that shot and a different kind of ammunition. I remember Hoover's letter well from my original writing. He said he could not connect that shot with the car or any of its occupants. This is to say he ruled out a fragment from one of the two bullets said to have hit the President and Connally - only two are admitted.

At some point this horrible fabrication has to come apart. Public interest, never missing, is being built by what are typical of Department of Disinformation operations by those who know nothing and care less. One of the reasons I wanted these tests is because they give the whole thing perspective and context. They eliminate the single "liberal" goat possibility with any kind of fair handling. (Right now I don't know what if any handling there will be.)

Here we have Hoover knowing but not Hoover alone so it can't be laid to his ghost. Dozens of FBI people at the least have known for years, some continuously. I have called one of these a perjurer without response from him, not even mild protest. He is one of those who signed these papers, is still in the FBI, and didn't even complain about my calling him a perjurer when we met for the first time on the 14th. He was likewise silent when I proved him a perjurer in the recent Ray evidentiary hearing, when there was no effort to rebut that evidence, either.

As I never believed history or justice would be served by blaming the members of the Commission alone so also do I not believe ~~that~~ history or justice will be served by anything that can reopen the case if Hoover alone is made the victim. The recent transcript goes into an aspect of this, tending to put it all on Hoover.

All the major papers are hung up on the subject of assassinations. One of the consequences is that all the ~~main~~ national desks are hung up on me. Late yesterday afternoon, when he was on deadline, I phoned a State editor I know to see if once again I could by-pass a national desk on this. He may call me back today or may not risk it. I may be able to handle this another way and I will try.

If there is any interest in a fuller understanding, the basic information is in the last two chapters of my first book, the one with the blue cover.

Separate from all of this, of course, is whether or not the government has complied with the law. I believe compliance is an impossibility. The only alternative, aside from the absence of the neutron-activation test, is that the FBI did not do the right work - deliberately. The purpose of these tests is a comparison. There is no comparison.

Also separate is how the government could go to court and swear that if they gave me this material the FBI would crumble into ruin and then turn around and give it to me, without even pro forma protest.

Perjury and its subornation permeate every suit I've filed and I suppose I'm not alone. How I wish that some committee would go into this and bestow some punishment! It should do much to clean things up once it becomes dangerous to lie, deceive, misrepresent or swear falsely.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg