

1/27/68

Preparing for trip your way. No time for reply. Order going separately.

Sincerely, HW

5630 Sawtelle Boulevard
Culver City, California 90230
January 25, 1968

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Thank you for your letter. I would think that if any association ever voted for a "picture of the century," the Altgens photo should be near the top. As you say, Oswald appears to be in this picture---plus President Kennedy, Governor Connally of Texas, possibly Jack Ruby (at far left), Vice-President and Mrs. Johnson, etc.

Another question: A dark-skinned person seems to be sitting directly below the man on the steps next to the front entrance. Everyone else is smiling and looking towards the motor-cavalcade. Yet this person is not only sitting down just as President Kennedy is passing through--but he is facing the opposite wall of the doorway. Directly behind him, the unknown person appears to be leaning out and from around the wall of the doorway, with a sharp, intense expression on his face. Yes, it could be, as you say, that the long-range lens of Altgens camera caused distortion...and that the person who might be Oswald could be a few feet behind the front wall of the entrance... because of the (negro?) sitting down, the person is at least two feet away.

The person in the white shirt on the fire-escape may either have lost his balance, as you say, or he may be using his right arm and left hand to support himself on the railing while sitting on the steep-steps. However, the man below him (who appears to be leaning out the window, resting his hand on the window-sill) may be reacting to the noise of the first shot and looking to his left. That is, you would think he would be looking toward the front...unless he was looking towards the rear of the motorcade.

In your second picture in WHITEWASH II, Zapruder and his friends are on the narrow wall next to the building. The Stemmons Freeway sign blocked his camera for a few seconds. If a person had been perched on the rear-bumper of a car (or station-wagon) in the parking-lot to the rear of Zapruder, he might have had to have waited for President Kennedy to appear from behind the sign. At this moment, someone from the area of the depository building might have made the first shot---causing Kennedy to raise his hand to his throat (Altgens photo). In the next second, as Kennedy's car moved from behind the sign, the other person (assuming he was on the parking-lot) could have fired the shot past Zapruder (who said he heard a shot from behind him) and the sign. If so--this might explain why several policemen and others ran up to the grassy knoll area, and the railroad employee said he saw a puff of white smoke from here. (In fact, a controversial photo was published, showing what may have been a man on the rear bumper of a station-wagon in the parking-lot, aiming an apparent weapon towards the car.)

Why would the man in the white shirt on the fire-escape (your last photo), if he were a secret-service agent, be wearing a white shirt? He must have been an employee who stepped-out of the open window directly below him and sat on the fire-escape to obtain a better view of the motorcade. That is, if he were in distriss--why would anyone shoot him when they would be shooting at the motorcade?

The Lovelady photo you show is a puzzler. It is obvious that the photographer had arranged Lovelady's red-and-white striped shirt to look like the jacket in Altgens photo of the man on the front-steps. His hair may have been clipped (?). Yet, it is obvious that the striped shirt is certainly not the jacket worn by the other person.

Now, it could have been that the FBI asked Lovelady to wear a jacket the same as or similar to the jacket shown by Altgen's photo. But Lovelady may have refused to do so. However, he might have complied with the arrangement and poses. Yet, his arms are folded behind him...whereas the man's arms in Altgen's photo are in front of him--and, in fact, very much like the pose used by Oswald in the police photo !

Yet, the man in the doorway is tensed and looking at Kennedy's car--not at the car of the Vice-President, closer to his point of view in the doorway. And why is the negro in front of the man sitting down and facing to his left--when everybody else is up--and the crowd of people would block the view of the negro? Why should the left arm of the man in the jacket be around in front of him and not hanging-down from his side in a natural position? As I say, this position duplicates the pose used by Oswald in the police photo the same day.

The person wearing the hat to the far left could be an agent--or Ruby. Here again, he has the same, non-committal, unexcited expression, looking toward Johnson's car and not (like the people in front of him) towards Kennedy's car. The two agents on the right side of Kennedy's car have turned around to look at the rear...possibly in reaction to the first shot. But the two men on the left side are apparently relaxed... showing that the first shot came from the rear and verifying the opening-door of the agent who is jumping-out of the fourth escort-car and running towards Johnson's car. In fact, the fourth-car couldn't see ~~xxx~~ the reactions of Kennedy to the shot--so they must have heard the shot and reacted at once to protect Vice-President Johnson. At this point, it is possible that the other person, utilizing either a powerful weapon or "dum-dum" bullets, took a second shot at Kennedy from the grassy-knoll area. In other words, perhaps this second person waited to see the outcome of the first shot. When he saw that Kennedy merely raised his hands to his throat in reaction to a minor wound, he may have then fired a second shot or third shot with a powerful weapon-- causing Kennedy's head to explode.

However, the bullet that penetrated Kennedy's back appeared to be several inches below his neck. Why, then, did Kennedy raise his hands to his throat if the bullet hit the area below his neck and in the back? Some have said that the bullet may have come from the front. Now, if, as Rowland, testified, he saw two men on the sixth floor--and if Oswald was the man on the front-steps--then Oswald was not on that floor, and the two men escaped. If Rowland was correct, the two men must have worked out a prearranged plan to escape notice when Truly and the policeman ran up the steps. They first saw Oswald when he was getting a coke on the first floor and apparently not out of breath. In the confusion, one or two men (if Rowland was correct) could have escaped from the building.

The immediate reaction of the reader--when he sees the Oswald picture in WHITELASH II, without a head--or any other picture of Oswald, is to jump to the conclusion that you may have avoided a direct comparison of Oswald's features to the Lovelady photo and Altgen's photo. However, how astonishing that Lovelady should resemble Oswald and work in the same building. If Lovelady had been a police agent, he would have been posed wearing Oswald's jacket or something similar--but he refused and was only willing to admit that he wore a red-and-white striped shirt. This threw the picture into confusion, of course, and verified Oswald's statement about being on the front-steps and Altgen's photo.

It may be, in time, that professional photographers societies may vote Altgen's photo the "picture of the century." You have done an amazing amount of research and highly-detailed, thoughtful writing. Yes, I have read that many writers have had to finance the publications of their books because of the controversial and new nature of the writings.

Yours very truly,
Kenneth Larson
Kenneth Larson
(CIRCLE RESEARCH)

NEP AD 00101 Rt. 7, Frederick, Md. 21701

1/22/68

Dear Mr. Larson,

There was no space for the uncropped picture of Oswald. I use an enlargement on TV when I can. I have it.

Since then a friend who has carried on my work on the pictures has gotten other pictures. The man on the fire escape seems to have lost his balance in reaction to something he saw, the obvious, I think.

The man in the doorway is twisted, as you say. This is part of the problem created by Liebeler's failure to identify the lens, a "long" lens, which has a foreshortening or distorting effect. He was, I think, quite a bit to the east of the western end of the doorway but seems to be right in it for this reason. I have no doubt at all that Oswald was on the first floor. When you get photographic Whitewash, read the suppressed Arnold reports that are printed in Possibile.

What you say about KNO's is interesting and substantially what others have told me. That is no way for government to work, ever, and particularly not when a President is murdered.

Sincerely,

5630 Sawtelle Boulevard
Curver City, California 90230
January 20, 1968

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Thank you for the letter. As soon as possible, I plan to send for your third book with the photos. It might have helped to have added a second photo of Oswald with his head in WHITEWASH II. The jacket worn by Oswald in the Dallas police station does seem to be the same one worn by the man on the front steps at the moment of the shooting.

However, close examination of your last photo in WHITEWASH II seems to show a young man leaning out of the open window, looking to his left, and with his hand resting on the window sill. His head is on a level with the half-open window sill. Also, I would think that in this same photo facing page 193, the man in the white shirt is resting on the steps of the fire escape, with his left hand under his right arm and grasping the metal railing of the steps. That is, he is simply using his hand and right arm to support himself while sitting on the steeply-slanting steps. Furthermore, your first photo in WHITE WASH II shows several women next to this same photo, all of them looking out at the motorcade--thus seemingly showing that these people were preoccupied on the same floor and looking at the motorcade, etc. But a check at Dallas at the building would show whether these two windows (your first and last pictures in WHITEWASH II) occupy the same room, so that the women knew about the man on the fire-escape and the youth to the right of the women, apparently looking out an open window.

Your letter raises another point: the reaction of the vice-presidential escort (one of them is just opening the door of the fourth car in WHITE WASH II, Aitgens photo) to the first shot seems to show that the shot may have come from near the car. That is, the escort on the second car hasn't reacted as yet...seemingly showing that the shot may have come closer to the area of the fourth car in the motorcade. Yet, others have said that the first shot (with Kennedy's reaction with his hands up to his throat) may have come from the grassy knoll area. Either that, or somebody snapped a quick shot at Kennedy from the area of the fourth car--followed by another second shot from the grassy knoll area. The explosion of Kennedy's head seems to show, as some writer suggested, the use of a powerful weapon or "dum-dum" bullet.

But you can see that the men on the second car have turned their heads to the rear--and at the same moment, the man in the fourth car has started to open the door so as to run to vice-presidential car. At the same moment, Kennedy has his hands up to his throat. Apparently, this seems to show this shot had come from the area around the fourth car.

Another point: the man on the front steps in Aitgens photo seems to be leaning out from behind a stone entrance-way--as if he were peering around so as to be able to see better. At the same moment, his face is tense and strained--much unlike the smiling faces of the other people around him. If this is Oswald, it could be possible that he was aware of what had been planned and was happening...the ringing out of the shots. Then, if this was Oswald, he may have moved back into the first floor-area (where he old police he had been) and walked over to get a coke. At the same moment, the police officer and the manager started a search and discovered Oswald at the coke-machine. If this is so, then Oswald couldn't have been on the sixth floor. All of this seems to show more than one person.

Apparently, then, Oswald told the police that he had been on the front steps at the moment of the first shots. He may have been the man (shown in Altgen's photo in WHITE WASH II) seen peering around from the post on the front steps. During his stay in the police station, all of the testimony he gave has not been revealed. If he was the person on the front steps, the police might have concluded that he might have been right in his statement. Somehow, he was involved--but there were possibly others. The agents who opened the right front door (or driver's door) on the fourth car in the motorcade seem to have heard the first shot before the agents on the second car (who are looking to the rear or ahead). Thus, the first shot may have come from the rear--and another shot might have come from the grassy knoll (showing the use of a powerful weapon or "dum-dum" bullets so as to explode the head of the President).

By the way, I noticed a lack of comment on the 20year presidential cycle. That is, starting with the year 1840, seven American presidents have died in office in zero-ending years and at 20-year intervals (1840-1860-1880-1900-1920--1940-1960). This brings up the problem of 1980. Actually, Kennedy knew about this matter, because he commented on these events in a letter to a private citizen.

Speaking of governmental documents: Between July-August, 1948, the Air Technical Intelligence Center of the Air Force, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio, prepared and distributed a top-secret document known as "Estimate of the Situation." They had concluded that UFOs or "flying saucers" were real and did exist. This document was sent to General Hoyt Vandenberg, Commanding General--who rejected it. According to NICAP, or the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, Washington, D. C., this document may have been destroyed around 1952. However, this document had been seen by Captain Edward J. Ruppelt, chief of the Air Force's Project Blue Book investigating UFOs, and author of the book THE REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS. This same document was seen by Major Dewey J. Fournet, Pentagon monitor on UFO reports, 1952. He stated this in a letter to NICAP--later published in their book THE UFO EVIDENCE (1964). Yet, the Air Force has denied the existence of this document and the preparation of it. These denials were made in letters to the Hon. L. Mendel Rivers, chairman of the Armed Services Hearing on UFOs, April, 1966, and in letters published in NICAP's book, THE UFO EVIDENCE (5.00 per copy). However, Major Hector Quintanilla, present chief of Project Blue Book, said in letter to this writer that the document had been written and distributed. On this basis, I wrote to the Library of Congress and the National Archives--asking them if they had any records on this top-secret document. The Library of Congress replied and said they had not records--and had been informed by Major Quintanilla that the document had been prepared but had been discarded. This means that this now-rare and historical document (the only one prepared by the intelligence units of the government and stating that UFOs were real and probably interplanetary) has disappeared and is not available to the Library of Congress or any other research library. In a letter to this writer, John A. Keel, noted UFO researcher and professional writer, said that he discovered that the document may have been burned...altho copies may have been kept by officers associated with Project Blue Book. But according to the present Air Force, this document was never prepared and never existed. Yet the documentary evidence shows that it was prepared and distributed around 1948 by the AFIC department.

Yours very truly,

Kenneth Larson

(CIRCLE RESEARCH)

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