

Mr. John Hasland  
5530 Eastbourne Dr.  
Springfield, VA 22151

5/7/92

Dear John,

Hasty response to your 5/4 before we <sup>l</sup>ave on errands including mailing books.

Either weekend is OK for us as of now. and no check was ~~considered~~ <sup>included</sup>. Which is not bad because I gave that long list of commission to records to Wrone years ago. And it is not on paper of a regular size. His address is 1518 Blackberry Lane, Stevens Point, WI 54481. If it is a size he cannot get copied easily he'll be coming here sometime fairly soon and we could ask him to bring it for copying. Probably it might be no problem for you and less cost. *Has to be unstapled first, too.*

What you say about the Milteer tape is what I thought, both about the SS negligence, with the FBI's even worse, and about the cancelled motorcade at the IPA convention. But I think I've seen a Secret Service record, perhaps the one you refer to, indicating that it was an anti-Castro gang's threat that <sup>really</sup> ~~caused~~ <sup>d</sup> the motorcade cancellation.

The SS had the tape; the FBI did not. And the FBI knew Somerset. He had been a symbol criminal informant for it. However, I believe the Secret Service would have agreed to whatever the FBI wanted it to agree to.

I think it is a total waste of time to think even for a minute about anything Zibbel wrote. He cribbed the blanks <sup>theory</sup> I think from Hugh McDonald's fakery. There was no basis for it at any time and you can make up more reasonable theories than that one!

On fight or flight, the more probative evidence is that LHO was on the first floor. If so he had several minutes to think a little, if thought is possible under those conditions, and it is not unlikely that his thoughts were about how to avoid lynching with his history. He went to the second floor after directing MacNeil to a phone and he passed the test when Baker saw him and left. I am inclined not to believe that he was on the bus and that he could have gotten the transfer on a bus to the movie. But in any event, he did have a little time for thinking, despite the intrusion into reasoning by the intense excitement, and he had no real possibility of flight, as he'd have known. So, he avoid the choice between fight and flight by attempting to hide until things cooled a bit.

I see no point in anyone trying to con Oswald into thinking he was firing blanks nor in any firing from that window- and I'm not persuaded there was any. Not beyond a reasonable doubt. The same purpose would have been served, absent having someone seen firing from that window, by firing from the general area. All the real assassins needed and could plan on was lead time and planting the rifle gave them that and misdirected any real investigation had there been one, long enough for them to get away, (If the police had really believed any shots came from there it would not have taken that long to find the rifle and the hulls. That belief developed after a little while.)

If someone had tried to con <sup>LHO</sup> him into anything at all he'd have been given at least a

full clip. And if the purpose was to warn, were there not easier and safer means readily available, even if one postulates the police were involved in the conspiracy, as I do not?

None of it seems reasonable to me.

I suggest that you go with Occam and seeks the simplest solutions. This line is much to complicated and convulated and had too many possibilities of the unnecessary going wrong. The simplest solution includes the belief that all the set~~up~~ was for was to give the actual shooters a few ~~moments~~<sup>seconds</sup> to get away, lead time. This did not require a later cover~~up~~. And once the assassins escaped there were no leads to the conspiracy that hired them, if they were hired, or of which they were part, if the shooters were part of it. In your thinking try to make this kind of case and then try to break it down. If you can't, forget about those who just make it ~~and~~ up, which enables it to appear to be persuasive.

I do not see how a fourth bullet could have been part of any frameup and I do see how it could destroy that. Remember, nobody ever duplicated the shooting attributed to LHO with three shots and no assassins with any sense at all if he knew that rifle had been planted would have believed it possible.

Being in the theater not only gave Oswald time to think - it gave time for the real assassin or assassins to be caught or for a trace of them to have been found. He needed time not to get killed by an angry mob.

any theorizing <sup>to</sup> have any possibility of being possible must be in accord with all the fact that we do have, and we do have a fair amount.

Birbel was just taken by McDonald's crap and adopted it adding what he did not know, as I happen to, that McDonald had had that, too (LBJ) in the book and took it out. (A publisher to whom a 60-some page summary had been submitted hired me to read it and give him an opinion. I did more because I had reasons to suspect the possibility of the publisher being set up. *if interested let me know about it.*)

While we do not know what really happened, I think that trying to puzzle it out does require keeping it as simple as possible. Occam. lead time, etc.

Won't have time to read and correct now. On Crenshaw now have confirmation there is no record of any such call by LBJ. A friend got it for the LBJ library at my suggestion.

I've a copy in today's mail. Not looked at it yet and won't have time to read and correct this now before we have to leave. *Later, I think there is a pretty solid case that LBJ did not and could not have called Crenshaw and that if he had made any*

*such call it would not have been to Crenshaw, of whom he would not have known. The same record record a call Harold Weisberg to LBJ from Myles at about 8:50p. to LBJ, Harold*  
*one from LBJ to JET immediately and as soon as that ended, to Katzenbach from LBJ! Provocative? also easily subject to misunderstanding by + application.*

so suggest...in that he (LHO) is firing blanks he instantaneously deduces he had been setup as a *patsy*...the organism is immediately overtaken psychologically and physiologically with the fight/flight response. This is not to suggest that fight was an alternative as, I believe, you correctly state. Who would he fight and with what? Insofar as he knew (within the context of this speculation) he had only blanks. Could the fourth bullet been intended as a further frameup. Would those who framed him been sufficiently talented to think through this problem to this degree? LHO cornered by the police, with a rifle that had an unexpended bullet in the chamber? The bullet in the chamber is a problem...unless the plan called for LHO to fire three blanks and the last to be a bullet in the chamber, thereby suggesting that he had actually fired three bullets at the President. This scenario also has the benefit of not having to account for LHO's marksmanship or lack thereof and the possible rapidity of firing three shots...knowing they were blanks aim was not an issue. It also accounts for the misalignment of the sight (if it wasn't induced after the shooting)...alignment would have been irrelevant. Confronted with the overwhelming impact of what he had witnessed, I don't believe it would be uncharacteristic of a person to run like hell...to get time/space between himself and the event in order to figure out what to do next...insofar as LHO never expected the possibility of flight (read being a *patsy*) that would account for his leaving his money with Marina and being at the Texas theater, as you suggested, to not be seen while he pieced together the puzzle confronting him. When captured his response would seem to be consistent with one expecting rescue. His denial is incompatible with political assassins and his failure to follow up on the demand for a lawyer would seem to be consistent with his expecting help in establishing his innocence. END OF SPECULATION FOR NOW!

There are obvious and perhaps critical flaws above but you've probably guessed that I've become interested in the issue of blank cartridges...totally separate from my other interest in the after the fact institutional failures. I'm going to try to work thru this before I see you again...and at that time you can mentor me on my own craziness.

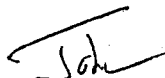
I have one favor to ask. Now that I have the commission document's on microfilm accounting for them is difficult. There is an index on the first roll but that is terribly inconvenient. If memory serves, Marion Johnson's inventory has a listing of the CDs and you have a copy of the inventory. I would be very appreciative if you would be so kind as to have your copier friend make a copy for me which I could pick up on my next visit. I have included a check for \$20 which should cover the cost.

If you have no objections I think I should like to visit on Saturday May 16 or 23, whichever is most convenient for you and Mrs. Weisberg. Or an alternative date of your suggestion; I am fairly open.

Thanks for tolerating my ramblings herein as I am (as you have) wrestling with these issues.

Please give my regards to Mrs. Weisberg.

Sincerely,



John W. Masland

5530 Eastbourne Drive  
Springfield, VA 22151  
4 May 1992 8:44am

Mr. Harold Weisberg  
7627 Old Receiver Road  
Frederick, MD 21702

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Just received your letter of the 28th ult.

Regarding the Fox special I concur with what your friend observed about Jones being embarrassed. I too thought the initial question about Watergate was somewhere out beyond Pluto. It was incongruent given the show and even more so in the manner it was presented. What really threw me though was that Jones seemed to expect Jean Hill to respond to it when he said something to the effect ...*That's for you, I think...* By the look on her face she was equally surprised. One thing I found interesting about Hill was that she was dressed in red...not certain as the significance but it was engaging. It was a shame that the rest of the show wasn't.

About the tape...I discovered that I had inadvertently recorded the audio on the SAP (Second Audio Program) track and my playback unit is incapable of reading that track. Apparently I did the same with the entire nine part PBS Civil War series I transcribed for my nephew...I took it up to New Jersey as a present for him and was mortified when it wouldn't play on any of their VCRs. Sometimes technology gets the better of us! I'm not certain as to how I can reconstitute it as normal audio as I don't have a second VCR that can read the SAP track. Will continue to experiment.

You are correct about Zirbel's book being worthless and also correct regarding what I meant about his theory...in that they are all no good, it is only equal to that measure. Equally correct was your observation about assuming that LBJ/friends had the motive, means, opportunity to commit the crime...looking back at the letter I think I meant to make a general characterization rather than a literal suggestion...didn't come across in that fashion however.

With respect to my use of the phrase *control from the top*, I did in fact mean it relative to the actions or non-actions of the *federal investigation*. I too, based on our conversations and my own research to date, separate the crime and the coverup and do not believe that they are necessarily connected except as a consequence of the shooting. In fact, this belief precipitated my filing a FOIA with the Secret Service to obtain the Final Survey Report, dated December 11, 1963; submitted by Special Agent L. F. de Frease relating to the Kennedy's visit to Miami, FL on November 18, 1963, to address the Inter-American Press Association. My suspicion is that the initial plan for a motorcade in Miami was influenced by the Milteer tape. If this is in fact the case, the fact that Lawson and Sorrels were not advised of the existence of the tape and the associated change of plans is significant. This is not to suggest complicity or a cause and effect relationship but, more likely, a simple act of omission. I believe it is reasonable to suggest that the Secret Service blundered and didn't want that public knowledge. Hence participation in or acquiescence to the coverup. It is my hope that the FSR will address the issue of the motorcade. They have advised me that they have found the document and will review it. I posted a follow

up yesterday inquiring as to how long the review will take...it's been three weeks since they notified me that they had located the document. I'll keep you advised as to what I discover.

FOLLOWING IS SPECULATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING AND WORKING THRU POSSIBILITIES ONLY...

Regarding my speculation about *fight or flight* (NOTE: this is not a defense of Zirbel but rather an attempt to work through this issue)...when confronted with an immediate threat to one's existence the human being (as all mammals) has a natural psychological reaction to the threat...an instantaneous assessment which usually leads to either fight or flight. This is not to be confused with the demonstration of subservience exhibited within a social hierarchy. What I am wrestling with is an individual's response to an overwhelming and usually violent event. The event is not usually one in which the participant has previously established or prior existing knowledge. An example would be a prizefighter as opposed to an individual walking in the park - the prizefighter knows he is going to fight on a given day, at a given time, against a given opponent that weighs the same as he and is armed with the same weight of boxing glove. When he gets in the ring he is going to fight despite the risk of injury - he is psychologically prepared...the fight or flight instinct in inoperable. Contrast this with the individual out for a stroll in the park when confronted by violently an opponent he doesn't know, at a time he wasn't expecting it. He must make an instantaneous decision to fight or flee. Whatever his decision, it will be virtually instantaneous and without significant conscious thought.

Zirbel theorizes that LHO was to fire a shot at Kennedy and intentionally miss... or (my comment) not have to miss as he would be firing blanks. In effect, sending a message to Kennedy to heed the warnings of his Secret Service (SS) detail regarding security. Zirbel postulates that this was LHO's role in the affair...that LHO was drawn in to what he (LHO) believed was an *intelligence operation* (I use the term very loosely here) to assist the SS in enhancing presidential security. Why LHO would have been gullible enough to buy into such a scheme Zirbel avoids. However, if he had been working with someone he trusted within the intelligence community, it is not completely implausible. If this was a person with whom LHO had a long standing relationship, extending possibly back before and thru his defection, and this individual had gotten LHO through the *defection*, a measure of trust would have developed. What I am describing here is the classic use of a case officer. This is not to suggest that such a person would have been in the employ of the government at that time, in the sense of official government participation, which I do not believe. Continuing the speculation, is it impossible to believe that those who were using LHO convinced him that they would load blanks into the magazine...*the diminished/muffled report of the first shot?* Having a bolt action rifle, blanks would do nicely since there would be no mechanical action requiring captured gas to initiate the action. Also, blanks cause a severe buildup of residue in the barrel of any weapon...I believe the barrel was extremely dirty when discovered...a fact inconsistent with bullets traveling down the bore but not incompatible with blanks. Lastly, the nitrate issue...blanks create little, if any, chamber pressure. Ergo, little or no rearward pressure or movement of expanding gases within the chamber to be released when the bolt action is cambered up and rearward to extract and eject the shell casing. In fact blanks work best in a bolt action weapon...in an automatic weapon some way of capturing the expanding gases, which are normally present behind the bullet in the chamber and bore, must be fashioned, in order to operate the weapons extraction, ejection, stripping, and chambering actions. No chamber pressure equals little or no rearward moving nitrates to be deposited on the hands/cheeks of the operator.

Returning to flight/fight...LHO, firing blanks sees the President's head explode...a President about whom LHO never said a harsh word or at least the WC could never produce a witness to