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February 15, 1966

Dear Mrs. Weagher,

Many thanks for letting me see the Hootman picture. I have seen it reproduced, I believe with a UPI credit, but am not sure. I certainly would like to see a clearer enlargement of it, if one existed, or a clearer print, for while I do note the suspicious items marked, with my less than excellent vision and even with the cheap magnifying glass I have I can not with any degree of certainty identify what it shows in the marked areas. The enlargement seems to be of a photographed reproduction, from the screen it shows, and I would say the same of that. There are some other things about the picture that interest me. I wish my recollection of my own research was more vivid. Remember, it was a year ago this time that I had exhibited my manuscript. It seems to be very close to the time of the head wound, after Jackie's strong reaction, well after the Altgens picture and at about the same time as a Muchmore shot in the Report. It does not seem as though the President's head, with his body already leaning toward his left, is in a position consistent with the official version of the ~~the~~ fatal wound. What is the flat, reflective object in front of Mrs. C. or between her and Kellerman? I recall no evidence about any such object. If the curved object that at first seemed to be the line of the windshield to me is the support bar, it seems to have the wrong contour from other pictures, but if it is, what is the bunch-like solid object at its right end as you look at it. While I think I can detect part of the right side of the rear-view mirror, I cannot see any of the visor, which on both sides was partly raised. He is the larger shot also a picture of a printed copy.

To much of what you say of the Tippit thing, I agree. I believe he was the only one assigned to the Central Oak Cliff area, and the last version of the log was at least supposed to have been prepared by the FBI from the recordings. The second one was edited, as I point out, and it was, as I recall, prepared by the police. I don't think it is safe to try and make out too much of the assignment of police cars after such a dramatic event had occurred, because there must have been pandemonium and great emotion and excitement. I think the true significance of the unanswered 1 p.m. call is that which I attributed to it and which you will see. Is it presumption the call to Tippit was for a blood-bank run? Even if fact, the availability of other cars and the need for them in areas of special character or for other contingencies known to the dispatcher and not us would have to be excluded. I seem to recall other odd things about Nelson but am now not certain. I recall nothing about 91, and do not recall that he was the first at the scene of the killing.

The dispatcher's version of the logs should have been a major thrust of the Commission's inquiry and in itself is enough to justify almost any suspicion. But what can safely be deduced from it is another matter.

One of the strong aspects you do not mention: Mrs. Tippit's failure to spend her vast fortune, or things a family in reduced circumstances could well use and would certainly desire. Even the apparent search of the Oak Cliff bus could lead to a seriously erroneous deduction. I believe, while suspicious, it is conclusive of nothing under the circumstances. Perhaps I am too conservative about this, but I believe it is the safer approach. Another interesting thing about the 1:54 location is its

proximity to Ruby's residence, which the Commission goes out of its way to avoid mentioning.

As I believe I told you, I wrote Fleet. I also heard Saturday night that the other House considering my book finds "quality" in it and, for a reason I cannot begin to imagine, is having it read again. It was read first by the President, who appeared to have okayed it and given it to the vice-president, who, while reading it, asked for another copy, saying that could speed them up. This was on December 22, and they had the extra copy waiting when they got back to work after Christmas. So, this is at least the fourth reading.

Last evening I was told by a well-known TV news correspondent who will, I am certain, not confirm it if it becomes necessary that Allen Dulles (with whom he is on a first-name basis) told him the Commission was, in effect, playing the odds. They were not certain Oswald was the assassin, not certain he was alone, not certain of the ballistic stuff, etc., but it seemed to them this was the most likely in each case.

Thanks again for the pictures, which I return herewith. If there is anything else like it you think I would like to see, I'll in each case return whatever you send as soon as I can study. After these pictures, I have again resolved that as soon as I can afford it I must get a decent magnifying glass.

I would like to hear from you after you speak to Collier and, of course, after you read my book. Incidentally, the people who are considering trying to raise money for a private printing are more enthused after the completion of the reading by the manager of one of the largest bookstores in Washington. His one word description, "terrific". He thinks it will sell 10,000 copies in hardback in D. C. alone under proper commercial auspices.

Sincerely,

12 February 1966

Mr Harold Weisberg
Hyattstown, Md 20734

Dear Mr Weisberg,

I am sending you the enclosed photos on loan and on a strictly confidential basis. They are not my property and I don't have permission to show them for any public view; however, I am sure that the people who are working on the photo evidence would not object to having them seen by a researcher, for personal information. The larger photo is the Moorman, although copyrighted by Willis; the smaller one is an enlargement of a section, as is evident. Please return them in due course.

I tried to call Fleet but there was no answer. I will try again on Monday. I also tried to find the name of the person mentioned once in the Report but not mentioned in the Hearings. No luck. Can you indicate whether the name is included in the index to the Report?

About Tippit: there are a number of reasons why I do not accept the official explanation that he was sent to central Oak Cliff as a matter of routine. The first transcript of the police radio log, Sawyer Exhibits, does not include that so-called instruction. It does appear in the later transcripts, CE 705 and CE 1974; but you will see that it was a joint instruction to 78 (Tippit) and 87 (Nelson). Nelson, however, acted as though he had never received such an order; he went not to central Oak Cliff but to the Depository, and when he communicated with the dispatcher about a question that came up there, the dispatcher never said a word about Nelson's ostensible disregard of the order to go to central Oak Cliff. Furthermore, the dispatcher tried to call Tippit a few seconds after 1 pm, without getting any answer, apparently because the dispatcher wanted a car to pick up blood from the blood bank all the way up on Commerce Street, and take it to Parkland Hospital. If he had really sent Tippit to Oak Cliff and then had a report from him at 12.54 that he was at Lancaster & 8th why should the dispatcher think that Tippit was anywhere near the blood bank? In fact, why should the dispatcher have called Tippit no less than 5 times between 12.45 and 1.15 pm? Sometimes without a reply? I think Tippit was up to something, perhaps with the knowledge of the dispatcher; or if without his knowledge, then the dispatcher was uneasy or suspicious, and trying to contact Tippit with a frequency and solicitude not accounted for by events as they appear on the surface. No one else was told to go to the center of his area; when the patrol cars called in from districts far more distant from the assassination scene than Tippit's normal district, they were told to go to the Depository. No one else was sought out the way Tippit was; and the district in which he was shot was not un-covered--the man on duty was on patrol there ("91"-Mentzel) which would mean that Tippit's normal district was left un-covered while he was sent into a district where the assigned man was on duty and where nothing was going on--until Tippit was shot. Before that, all was quiet; and no one supposedly knew that the "suspect" lived in Oak Cliff (though there seems to have been a search of the Oak Cliff bus). I think all that may add up to something more than the bland official reconstruction of what happened.

I will look forward to hearing from you again. Best regards,

Sylvia
Sylvia Meagher

*ⓧ If you read Olsen's testimony you will see
that he was near Lancaster & 8th !!*