1/12/72

Mr. Martin
Senator Edward Kennedy
Senate Office Bldg.,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Martin,

How often I tell myself the last thing that should concern me, given the undeviating attitude, is anything having to do with the welfare or futures of any of you! Even if other national interests were not involved, I can't persuade myself this is a correct attitude, so here I go with another futility, another effort to let you know what you are into, what you have done.

You have recognized Dr. Lattimore as a medical expert, defined in the contract as pathologist or expert in a related field. He has vigorously denied this (Long John Nebel Show, WNBC,1/10/72). On that show he also admitted no knowledge of the most basic evidence, including the testimony of the prosector or thenames of any one of the Department of Justice panel of experts, and that he had not until given access to this suppressed evidence, even taken the time to look at the movies of the assassination. These are indeed unique credentials for both expertise and genuine interest!

Every source quotes him as saying that this film proves Oswald alone did the deed. That is beyond the capacity of any film.

"I know from my own experiments that Oswald was a perfectly competent marksman" (Long Island Press, Newsday 1/10). Can you think of any "experiment" any man can perform that can in any way address the competence or lack of it of any dead man? And on this same point he claimed possession of an Oswald Marine record showing Oswald to have been a superb shot (Long John Show). He can't have read the Warren Commission evidence, which is that when last tested Oswald scored but a single point over the minimum required of the worst shot in any military service, and that at his best he was just an ordinary shot. Or the testimony that showed he was really a very poor shot. This is the official Marine Corps evaluation. If you want citations, I'll provide them and copies.

He says the Warren Commission was wrong in its representation of the trajectory of the so-called non-fatal shot, that it hit much higher, yet the Warren Report was correct in the rest of the trajectory. What contortions can be expected of even a magical bullet from your expert - and make no mistake, you are saddled with him. How can the Commission have been right with a flatter trajectory (and Lattimer doesn't even know what it said that was!) and still right with a steeper trajectory?

So, your selection, your exclusive expert, has these shots fired: one that did all the damage to the head; one that missed entirely; one that caused all the nonfatal injuries. This comes to three, which could not have been fired by anyone in the time clocked on film. To this your man adds (CBS-TV Morning News 1/10 - and I have the tape) that bullet 399, the one to which all the non-fatal damage is attributed, may well not have touched the President at all and have hit Governor Connally alone. So, what, then, as your man puts it, caused all the nonfatal damage to the President? Inevitably, by your own expert, a fourth bullet and a conspiracy at best. If this is the accounting of the killing of one of his brothers you want your Senator to be responsible for, it is only part of it. Sincerely, Harold Weisberg

P.S. Let me now forecast the future, to some of which I am privy, unlessx that conniving has been aborted, as I have tried to arrange.

He who acts in the Kennedy name will now permit a genuine expert to see this material. Any pathologist who knows anything of the official accounting can look at the genuine film and the clothing and find it impossible to avoid saying this evidence disproves that official accounting. He emerges from his examination and so declares.

(Parenthetically, I tell you that there is no pathologist, including the best, and one of especially fine credentials is involved, knows enough about the rest of the evidence to make a full evaluation and none knows enough about all the attendant circumstances to put any conclusions in the proper perspective.)

So this accredited pathologist comes out and says the accounting of how the President who was the brother of the living Senator Kennedy is false. What then happens?

Who will be blamed? Who represents the estate, in whose name was inspection permitted, and first of all by an utter incompetent, a self-seeker, a bitter, irrational partisan?

What do you think the chorus will be, from Nixon all pious, Mitchell all legal, Kleindienst the righteous and Hoover the saintliest? Will it be - and with their records can it be other than that this was all suppressed by the Kennedys, and if there is anything wrong with the accounting of how the President was killed, ask the Kennedys who are responsible for the suppressions? How many still live to answer?

You might be interested in a few other proofs of the integrity are credibility of your expert. Medical World News 12/12/69, "it was physically impossible for him [JFK] to have bent over." If you don't know, want to make a bet? Could he sit down? There is awlays the possibility of journalistic error, but this same source quotes you man as using the identical ammunition attributed to Oswald, "in late 1964 Dr. Lattimer thought to advertise in Shotgun News for Winchester ammunition of the type used by Oswald." Great, considering the alleged ammo was World War II Western, not Winchester.

He now pretends to have "had some reservations" about Oswald's guilt "before" seeing what you have made available to him just now (quote from N.Y.Daily News 1/10/71). Aside from the Medical World News story, which says the opposite, as does his entire record, in International Surgery 12/68, p. 526. among many things making him a 1972 liar is, "The fact that bullet 399 was fired from Oswald's rifle has been verified by tests done by the F.B.I. laboratory..." Tis is Lattimer's personal writing, not a paraphrase. Another (p.528), "Was the ammunition used by Oswald unreliable?" Next page, "Oswald's ammunition"; "Oswald's unfired round";"..cartridge cases found near his firing location";"Oswald used American-made...cartridges";"Was Oswald's ammunition unreliable?...clearly 'NO'!". Page 531, "carbine of the exact type used by Oswald;" "ammunition used by Oswald" (repeated twice). Even earlier, in the Journal of the American Medical Association of October 24, 1966, your man of trust, honor and extersie who now pretends he was from the first open-minded and only what you have now show him persuades him Oswald was the assassin, in his very first sentence refers to "the assassin Lee Harvey Oswald". This is repeated and repeated. He said the same thing in Chicago (New York Post 10.24/68), again ample repetition. The Washington Post of 10/26/66 quotes him as saying "it was Oswald and Oswald alone", still again with ample repetition.

Do you people pick them! Do you know who to trust with your Senator's honor!

And I have not begun tomexhaust what I can tell you of Lattimer and his "work", or what he has yet to address that I asked him four years ago. All relevant, as you can learn. One other demonstration of his skill in ballistics may interest you. He has said (including on the Long John Show, tape available) that it would be impossible to fire such a bullet into cotton and recover it in such condition. If you want two more perfect, ask me.