

The Times has its own news service. Naturally, it put law reporter Graham's story on it. Only because of the long media campaign to down-play any attention to the assassinations did it fail to get a larger play. But it did get extensive use, further corrupting the public mind on the subject, an endeavor in which both the Times and Graham had been instrumental for years. So august a paper as The Times of London, one of the world's most respected, used it instead of asking a special story from its own and always-excellent Washington staff.

In TV, CBS jumped in with both feet. The other nets were indifferent. Perhaps hoping the viewers would see in it some kind of vindication of its own four-part its videowhitewash of the summer of 1967, longest TV special in history, CBS alone made a two-day story of it, something not even the Times did. The featured Lattimer in person the night of the 9th and on the country's largest TV news show, CBS's hour-long morning show. And for all the six-figure salaries in CBS News, rare in journalism, the presentation was such overt propaganda, so inherently incredible, that unlike stories of the past, when phones rang with ~~inex~~ listener inquiries, this time they were silent.

And so uncritically was the raw Lattimer presented that what really went on the air was refutation, not support, of the Report and the official fiction it represents.

~~In~~ But CBS did it up right. They staged a press conference for Lattimer in their large and fancy CBS Reports studio in New York. Despite this exceptional kindness, of all the newspaper clippings I have seen, not one mentioned the CBS shows and only one, the New York Daily News of the 10th, even notes this out-of-character kindness, of a TV network giving its facilities to the feature of the scoop ~~which~~ officially-arranged for a competitor.

The country still has working reporters true to the traditions of their calling and seriously concerned about their responsibilities. Two on the CBS New York affiliate were ~~se~~ outraged at the intent of the local station to repeat the incredible opening of the Graham scenario, that the film proved Oswald the assassin. One, Jim Lawrence, formerly news director of KHJ, in Hollywood, asked the obvious question apparently none of the big net brains or the Times or the lawyer who had to know better, Graham, permitted to be asked, "How can any picture or X-ray of any wound show who fired a rifle?" Thus that

large share of the TV audience in the area of densest population, the New York metropolitan area,, which viewed WCBS-TV, got a little less propaganda.

What went out on the net is simply incredible. It would insult the intelligence of a war reporter on a high-school weekly. Two samples should be enough to illustrate. (Of course, there was true fidelity to the Graham incredibility that in some magical way these things showed that Oswald alone was the assassin.)

In recounting the history of Bullet 399, for all the world as though it were captured hours later and half the country away, in the ^{Naval} Bethesda Hospital, and without any prompting from the shilling reporters, Lattimer conceded that it could have missed the President entirely and struck Connally alone. Obviously, this means still a fourth bullet, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Something had to cause the President's non-fatal injuries.

And in pretended impartiality but really with the intent of supporting his own trifling, incompetent and inaccurate earlier and unworthy writing, Lattimer said the Commission erred in placing the bullet-hole in the back of the neck too low. For a doctor his account was something less than one of Hippocratic ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ dedication. The Commission placed this hole at the base of the neck and a bit on the right side of the body. Lattimer said his viewing of the film established this as a couple of inches higher.

Taken literally, this means that the bullet could not have struck the President, that it would have whizzed by the right side of his neck. Taken the way Lattimer intended, it struck full in the neck. This, he said, really means that it was easier to account for the injuries to Governor Connally. And to make his account completely ridiculous, the added new capers to the alleged career of that puckish projectile. Lattimer had to hitting the governor's right wrist while it was waving the governor's hat in the air, not when the hand was resting on his right thigh. This new official geeing and hawing at 2,000 feet per second and within a matter of inches is a new dimension in ballistics, for the existing contemporaneous pictures show the hat in front of the governor and to the right and above his thigh, Where else would one expect a hat waved in the right hand?

We thus have this representation of his knowledge of the human anatomy from the expert whose one genuine skill is in urine: this bullet went smack dab through the neck

necessarily straighter from back to front, without striking any of the bone which makes up the neck. With all the magic already attributed to fabled Bullet 399, this is an exquisite achievement.

Then Lattimer said that because the bullet struck higher ^{than it said} the Warren Report was right, because having hit higher ~~it was~~ the downward trajectory required for it to have gone through Connally at twice the steepness of its imputed course through the President was more likely.

If we assume Lattimer spoke the truth - and if he did what about that panel of four experts, pathologists and a radiologist, not urinary experts and their confirmation of the Commission's version? - is it not strange that no tiny journalist voice peeped out that the Commission had lied? Could one bullet have two trajectories so radically different and both accounts be faithful?

Lattimer belongs in body wastes. The tragedy of the Kennedys is that their representative did not keep him where he belongs. It should be transparently clear that with the bullet in the neck ~~through~~ still coming out on the left side of the knot of the tie in front and ~~it~~ going so far to the right - it was in all official mythology undeflected, remember - that it could enter Connally in his right. Thereafter, of course, it had to change direction still more violently ~~to transit Connally from right to left.~~ to transit Connally from right to left.

If the Commission and its panels campfollowers were right in saying that their trajectory is correct, then in the Lattimer variation this bullet came closer to that part of Connally's anatomy in which Lattimer's real interests lie. But were Lattimer what for him seems to be impossible for anything removed from the bladder, right in this case, is it not obvious that he destroys both the Commission's and the panels' reports and the integrity of all therein concerned?

Each official fictioneer in the vain quest for validation of falsehood destroys the credibility of all others while exposing himself.

The Lattimer story should have been reserved for ^{the least discriminating of} those to whom fairy tales have to be read: printed in very large type, ^{with} short words and gaudily illustrated. Maybe infants

with their wide-eyed fancies could accept such stuff, but all that CBS journalistic brain trust?

Why they even let him embellish on the Graham account, to say that he saw the track of the bullet through the body in the X-rays, thus creating magical X-rays to go with magical bullets, for until this moment in medical history it had been deemed impossible. ~~The~~ X-rays had, until that moment when the arcane science coming from the close study of urine was applied to them, showed bone, metal and things like them, but not flesh. And in even Lattimer's variation on a theme by legal Aesops this bullet struck no bone. How, then, was he to have seen any path?

If this is what it takes to make the TV nets, if this shows how one earns those six-figure salaries at CBS, it also ~~shows~~ proves what I wrote earlier, that money can buy brains, but not common sense. With CBS it shows that enough money can sublimate common sense. All the Kennedy wealth bought it brains that brought it disgrace heaped on tragedy. With Lattimer, it also brought an uninhibited liar. There was nothing he could not do or say. So intent was he upon trying to sanctify his earlier shameful scribbling with a Kennedy appointment, so determined to remove the stale stench of his speciality from those words he had poured on the medical audiences he had addressed, that he completely forgot what he had said and written or, what is less ^{no} obscene with anything having to do with the assassination of a President, lied about them deliberately. For some reason he felt he had to articulate the claim to impartiality, not let it be assumed.

But he never had been impartial.

He made a big deal of the pretense that until he saw the pictures and X-rays he had had doubts about Oswald's guilt. Every single spoken or written Lattimer word is directly opposite this. He never identified Oswald except as the lone assassin.

(Pick up with contents of 1/12 Martin letter and follow with Long John)