

June 2, 1969

Dear Dick:

Harold forwarded copies of photos of your work. Thanks for both of you. Thanks also for the memos--I will send them on to good people and try to get impressions. By now you have the stuff from Olson--copy of the letter and a memo on his response to your memo. I will ask him when he first saw the dent. He knows quite a bit since this is his PhD dissertation. One of us should be that lucky.

Harold sent me much of your stuff on Jerry Herald. I suppose what would be helpful, however, in the event that I go, is exactly what you want to know plus any ideas. This will rule out the possibility that I don't have copies of everything, or haven't lost anything crucial.

Check on John Carter. Penn Jones, as Harold mentioned, does think that he is the younger brother of LBJ's assistant Cliff Carter, and he wrote an editorial about it in the Mirror. Penn may have either no evidence at all or someone's say so, like Boxley, Turner, etc. Penn picks up rumors and prints them as facts. Penn often misidentifies namesakes of witnesses. For instance, one of his mysterious deaths was that of Little Lynn Carlin, which would have been one of the most interesting people connected with Ruby to die, but it turned out to be the wrong one. None of his stuff is any good at all without checking, although he sometimes does turn up rumors which check out, like with the half million paid Zapruder.

Many people challenge Sprague's claim that the films show a puff of smoke on the knoll. Olson, I think, who knows the available photographic evidence quite well, was one I am pretty sure. There are 7 witnesses who saw it, of course, but that doesn't tell us the exact time and how much smoke and what kind of smoke (i.e. color, dispersion pattern, height from the ground). I have often wondered about the possibility of a diversionary tactic designed to direct attention to the knoll from which it would be easy to escape with SS credentials, etc. while the Depository men found their way out quietly. I appreciate your making reference to the problems with mentioning the puff of smoke. My very first appearance, 3 years ago, involved such a question. My answer is that there is no telling what type of weapon or ammunition was involved until we find the men, or whether that was just a diversionary tactic (to protect men in the sewer, men in the TSB), but in any event, something suddenly happened up there at the time of the shots according to the witnesses. Bear in mind that if they had sealed off the TSB or even stayed around long enough to hear the witnesses who saw a guy up there, then someone could have been caught. Esquire did a job on Lane in their compendium of assassination theories by attributing the blunderbuss theory to him. Mark made the mistake of making too much of the fact that the Carcano allegedly emits a small quantity of smoke. Ironically, I think that it was Schiller and Lewis who took that phoney photo lining up the knoll trees and the SE corner window on the 6th floor from the bridge and suggesting that the smoke came from the window. I guess that could be the howitzer theory, which would give them something in common with Lewis Nizer who kept referring to the question as to whether the rifle was a howser or carboneri.

On the beating last summer: On the 4th of July in a park after the fireworks, I came upon a guy being severely beaten by a gang of black kids who looked like they would kill him in a matter of a minute or so. I rushed in and used the one thing which never fails: I yelled STOP in an authoritative voice and stood between most of them and him. They stopped, he pulled himself together, and crawled away and then apparently got up and ran. Then I got clubbed from behind and stomped and beaten after being knocked to the ground. Most of my injuries were head injuries and at first it looked like massive brain damage and possibly loss of vision in both eyes. I have permanent loss of vision in the left eye but cosmetically it is normal. All of the scars healed and are either under my hair or are hard to see. I spent 10 or 11 days in the hospital under heavy sedation. There is only minimal damage to the right eye and no

brain damage, although the first night my neurological exam was something to behold. I had one very deep wound on the side of the head and the doctors said that one and several others were undoubtedly caused by some type of weapon, although I had many injuries which were the result of being kicked by boots. How I got away and survived is not fully understood, and the very fact that I lived through it was a miracle in itself. There was one point when I wasn't sure since I couldn't move and I couldn't feel anything. All in all it was a pretty bad experience and I have nightmares sometimes. After I got out of the hospital, rested and got glasses for protection of the good eye, did a few interviews (during one of which David Kroman threatened the vision in my good eye if I kept working on the case), I flew home to Phila. After a week Harold had me at his place for a week after Vince drove me down there. Harold and his wife were really great to me and it speeded the mental and physical recovery a great deal. That long ina hospital under sedation really weakens you. More important, it is hard to stay around Harold's place and be depressed or not do any thinking, and Harold got me back into action mentally. In fact, he and I got out to interview a witness I had been meaning to see for some time and who was almost a neighbor of his, which helped. So, all in all it cost me quite a bit of time, money, and many other things. There is no reason to believe that it had anything to do with the case since I walked into the situation and then made the decision to intervene. Those who went to get the cops found them unresponsive, although they were only 50 yards away and could see roughly what was happening. It s major effects on me are a slowing of reading speed and a limitation on all night working which involves reading, although my reading speed was once quite high and so now I am still able to outread most of the people around me anyway. The Minneapolis Star, which had published my articles on the assassination in early 1967, put me on the front page, but never mentioned that they had published articles by me. The only thing connected to the case was that Kroman used my weakened state to threaten me. Fortunately, I had one of my researchers there as a witness (she had to drive me around, take notes, etc.) The reason he got rough was that he made a slip about McNabb which turned out to be one of the things which convinced me to keep pursuing that and eventually come up with Rose, aka McNabb.

By the way, do you have those Rose-McNabb memos. I could send them if you don't. They are an interesting example of carelessness in the N.O. investigation, Turner's duplicity, and the importance of keeping your eyes open.

Best wishes.

Gary

cc:Harold