

2/24/70

Dear Harold,

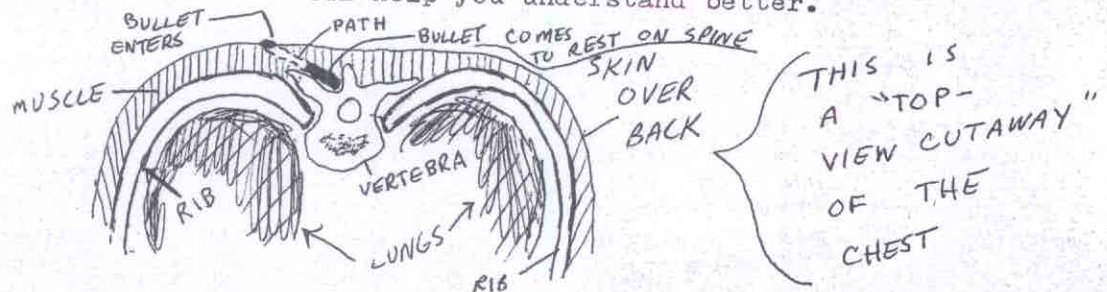
Today your large package of letters arrived--the one which contained your 2/16 to me.

As for the NO transcripts, we are somewhat beyond some of the old Dealey Plaza witnesses (like Zapruder) although I'm sure some are valuable--like those who saw shots hit the ground. This is very important. You know how interested I am in Shaneyfelt. While I was there I told you how he and Specter played games with perjury and dignity (which you had missed), and if my chapter draft on this ever gets retyped, you will see exactly what I mean.

SHIRT SLITS AND 399 BASE: You now have the pix of the slits I produced so you can judge for yourself. In comparing to actual slits, remember that the picture of them is poor and that I made extensive efforts to get other ones (which included contacting Hoover). As for the 399 base, it is a possibility that a conscious and deliberate effort was made to remove metal--but who knows.

BISHOP: There is something very important in what he says about a "pre-autopsy" examination. What surprises me is that I found corroboration for this in the testimony. Humes told Specter: "You must include the fact that certain X-rays and other examinations were made before the actual beginning of the routine type autopsy examination" (2H349). As I say in my notes, this, if accurately described by Bishop, would have allowed the docs (sans Finck) to remove a bullet lodged in the back before it could show up on an X-ray. And that, from various things I have seen, is not a remote possibility.

In line with that, consider this. The location of the back wound demands that if it hit straight on, it would go into a lung. Now, the wound was probed with a steel rod for 5cm (from Levine's Boswell interview). If the bullet did go into a lung, then the probe, to get 5cm. or 2 inches in surely went into the lung. Well, there isn't anything in a lung which would stop a probe unless the tract really ended there which, considering the density of lung tissue, is quite unlikely. Think about what I said about the bullet coming in on a sharp right to left angle and missing the lung but being stopped by the spine. Remember also that the wound was 5cm. from the midline, which is compatible with the distance probed. Maybe this sketch will help you understand better.



YOUR 2/16 TO ME: There really isn't much to reply to it. I have made it straight to him how I want my stuff used and he has consented (that is, to Nichols). I'll see what I can do about getting a copy of my Tink-Specter tape for you. JFK neck length ~~XX~~ can be best appreciated in side and back views of him at Love Field. He had almost no neck, a wide trapezius, and apparently elevated shoulders. This is one of the reasons the autopsy measurements put the wound so far down on his back as they

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do on my father, which is obvious from the pictures of my test. I am not too certain just what work you have done with this in reference to actual physical tests. You, it has largely seemed to me, have taken a different approach to it. If you have conducted a test like mine which you documented with photos (or if anyone to your knowledge has) then please tell me for I would not want to take credit for being the first to do so.

YOUR LETTER TO JUDY BONNER: I know ~~Nothing~~ of this other than what was included in the letter itself plus the covering letter to Mary. I am puzzled and the nature of the carbon has added to my confusion. But what I can deduce does not please me. Is this lady writing another "exposé" on us? Is she critical of us and laudatory of the infamous WC? Or is she spiteful of the whole bunch?

If there is one thing we do not need it is any more "Truth About Assassination", Robert's masterpiece of ignorance and ass-kissing, or "Scavengers and Critics", muckraking the muckra~~kers~~kers. These are, in my view, singularly disastrous books, moreso than the disastrous books which they for the most part attack (such as that of loud-mouth Lane). These are really terrible for public images. I suppose I am hung on the public image bit, possibly too much.

You see, it was these guys with the generous and probably unintentional help of boobs like Lane and Epstein (and they revolted me long before I knew you) who almost turned me completely off. And it was Dick, who I must spare no ~~xxx~~ praise, who put me back on this and restored my faith (in addition to setting me on the right tracks). One can truly be misled by these scoundrals, and it is not until you can force yourself to realistically examine the situation that you know where things stand.

Even though I think you are somewhat sensitive to criticism of your own work (and so am I), I am impressed by the fact that no one to my knowledge challenges any of your major and certainly crucial points, just the trivia like part of your work with the Altgens picture in WWII. But to break you down, they must resort to lowly personal attacks (the veracity of which I remain to be convinced ~~xx~~). And it is no secret, as Dick knows, that for some time, I had little respect for your published work and accused you of making mountains out of molehills. Here Dick opened my eyes. Once he began writing about you, I began to think. Good lord! Do you know that before I even knew Dick, I sat down to write a chapter on LHO's innocence with only three things: a pen, a pad, and a copy of WHITEWASH! Yet, even then I was too blind to recognize just how good your work was. Those days are past, but now I still fear the effect these criticisms of the critics~~x~~ can have.

Is there anything of value in the book, and has it been distributed yet? I am always interested in getting new things which have been published...As I decipher the letter, I see that it rates with your Kempton one (although that one to Ramparts had me doubled over when I stumbled onto it). I would like to see if this lady answers.

Will be writing again soon.

Still,



cc. Dick