

COVINGTON & BURLING

888 SIXTEENTH STREET, N. W.

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

TELEPHONE (202) 452-6000

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NUMBER

(202) 452-6498

NEWELL W. ELLISON
JOHN G. LAYLIN
H. THOMAS AUSTERN
FONTAINE C. BRADLEY
EDWARD BURLING, JR.

COUNSEL
JOHN SHERMAN COOPER
OF COUNSEL

TW: 710 822-0005
TELE: 89-593
CABLE: COVING

HOWARD C. WESTWOOD
JOHN T. SAPIENZA
JAMES H. MCLOTHLIN
ERNEST W. JENNIES
STANLEY L. TENKO
DON V. HARRIS, JR.
WILLIAM STANLEY, JR.
WEAVER W. DUNHAM
EDWIN M. ZIMMERMAN
JEROME ACKERMAN
HENRY P. SAILER
JOHN H. SCHAFER
ALFRED H. MOSES
JOHN LEMOYNE ELLICOTT
PAUL H. DUKE
PHILIP R. STANSBURY
CHARLES A. MILLER
RICHARD A. BRADY
ROBERT E. O'MALLEY
EUGENE I. LAMBERT
JOHN VANDERSTAR
NEWMAN T. HALVORSON, JR.
HARVEY M. APPLEBAUM
MICHAEL S. HORNE
JONATHAN D. BLAKE
CHARLES E. BUFFON
ROBERT N. SAYLER
E. EDWARD BRUCE
DAVID H. BROWN
PAUL J. TAGLIABUE
ANDREW W. SINGER
DAVID H. HICKMAN
RUSSELL H. CARPENTER, JR.
NICHOLAS W. FELS
THEODORE L. GARRETT
DANA T. ACKERLY
COLEMAN S. HICKS

CHARLES A. HORSKY
W. CROSSBY ROYER, JR.
DANIEL H. GRIBBON
HARRY L. SHINDLERMAN
EDWIN S. COHEN
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JOHN W. DOUGLAS
HAMILTON CAROTHERS
J. RANDOLPH WILSON
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EDGAR F. CARRA, JR.
WILLIAM H. ALLEN
DAVID B. ISBELL
JOHN B. JONES, JR.
H. EDWARD DUNKELBERGER, JR.
BRICE MC ADOO CLAGETT
JOHN S. KOCH
PETER BARTON HUTT
HERBERT DYM
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MARK A. WEISS
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JOHN B. DENNISTON
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MICHAEL BOUDIN
BINGHAM B. LEVERICH
ALLAN J. TOPOL
VIRGINIA G. WATKIN
RICHARD D. COPPAREN
CHARLES LISTER
PETER D. TROOBDOFF
WESLEY S. WILLIAMS, JR.
DORIS O. BLAZEK
WILLIAM O. IVERSON
S. WILLIAM LIVINGSTON, JR.
JOHN H. VINE

February 9, 1978

Mr. Edmund C.T. Johnston
1595 Odell Street, Apt. MD
Parkchester
Bronx, New York 10462

Dear Mr. Johnston:

I just received your letter and the enclosed article about your book "The Key" and I appreciate very much your writing me.

When I wrote you several days ago, I did apologize for my delay in answering your last letter and I also told you I did not clearly understand its subject matter.

First, I assure you that I will read "The Key" at the earliest possible time and I hope this coming weekend.

According to the article about your book, I think there is a misunderstanding about what you may consider my opinion to have been on the "one bullet" theory when I was serving as a member of the Warren Commission.

Senator Russell opposed the "one bullet" theory and I also opposed it. One of my reasons was that I was greatly impressed by Governor Connally's strong statement that a separate bullet had caused his wound. Also considering the fact that Oswald's rifle ordinarily would have had a cartridge in position for firing, I believe there was no real problem about the time limit for firing the three shots.

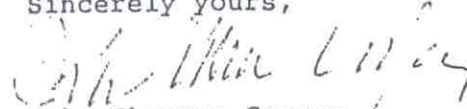
I recently read again the Summary of the 26 volumes of our Report. I think if you will study it carefully, you

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will find it leaves the matter rather open. In different sections it states there was a disagreement on this problem, but in any event we had reached the unanimous conclusion that Oswald was the sole killer and there was no conspiracy. I still hold to that conclusion.

If facts not known to us should be developed and lead to a different conclusion than ours, it would be compatible with the Warren Commission's search for the truth. I believe that our findings will stand.

Sincerely yours,


John Sherman Cooper