

1/3/69

To Andrew Scisbro
From Harold Weisberg
Prospective witnesses - S.M. Holland.

He can be an important witness on the presence of people on the grassy knoll, ignored by the Commission and the federal investigative agencies, and the "puff of smoke", which can be a very great boomerang if used as Mark did. He also presents a very great liability, again because of the knowing misuse Mark made of him for a cheap, dramatic effect.

No one expects the witnesses of great dramatic events to have infallible recollection of the most intimate details. Holland makes one very gross error. It is dramatic as it can be in the absence of cross-examination. I went into this with Schiller, who misused it, but the essence is a matter of record and was known to the Commission, for it is in his interview.

He says, with some emotion, that a Secret Service man in the President's car got up and waved a machinegun around, Mark knew better and the FBI and Commission lawyers knew better. Holland is undoubtedly sincere. He is also close to right. It happened, but in the next car. The existing photo record of the President's car makes clear that Greer kept sitting with his hands on the wheel and Kelsarman's only movements were in turning. They were the only agents in the President's car. By showing that this did happen in the followup car, which was tailgating, the testimony being that at that time of the shooting it was but five feet away (as Nix, Muchmore and Zapruder also show), I think this curse can be removed from Holland and, to the judge at least, he can be made credible.