

It is true that I consider to be applicable to situations of order with this
little conversation. I also want it to fit with other signs I have had seen
in the past and may be nearer to implicating. Similar has, indeed, been a possibility.
I had have photographic help nearer him, one Joel Fisher, in Detroit, who I had
met in touch with you. I deliberately delayed moving in Chicago when I had
to go to the north side of the city. I can get someone there to do some thing, I
think, when the time is right, and that should be seen. I am also hoping to get
back there before too long.

One of the comforting things is how many people have written me wanting to
know and how many have been so helpful. There are many more than I have named
to me and I am delighted I am that you are there for them to work with. Beverly
Hansen does conspires in these and plots in leave of grace, but she has an exact
mind and does have a very good grasp of the evidence. I have just turned her
article of the Baker letter over to Hal and Paul and their scholars. It is quite
interesting. He postulates an earlier date for it, if it is genuine, and eliminates
the official speculation from internal evidence.

Incidentally, I refer to your work often in my appearances. I'd like an extra
copy of any memo you turn out so I can have it to carry with me, always having one
at home. This way, when I meet someone like Fred, I can also give it to him. Can you
mail the up-to-date to him, please? Is it John Olson who is the "mystery man" life
was interested in, used in the Berkley Barb? May I suggest that you make a closer
study of the pictures Al Chapman took for me, some of which Jim jumped the gun
on, particularly the high inlet. I have asked him to take a few more and will let
you know if they show what I want, the underneath of the fence from the level of the
earth at the eye-level of the top of the inlet.

I fear the premature release of the new medical evidence I have, particularly
because I think it is hazardous to use this kind of stuff piecemeal. It is part of
a story, not just a single thing. Others have used my stuff this way and I think it
has been hurtful because they didn't understand what they had not themselves done,
and because they missed the greater significance in it. When we get together, which,
before my wife's injury, I had hoped would have been this coming Monday, I'll brief
you, but only in the strictest confidence.

About when the President was first hit, the evidence is it could have been
as early as frame 180, approx. I have the names of the experts who rendered this
scientific opinion. Those who would not change were not called as official witnesses.
Those who were called were not asked the right questions, which they had been in
interviews, and did not volunteer. I want nothing said about this, and I'll tell you
the rest when I see you (I may be able to get up for the 3/4 meeting by getting some-
one to stay with my wife), but I tell you this much so you can understand what is
involved. It is not just a mistake, an oversight, "sloppiness",

Willis cannot have lowered his camera "well after" 200 for he is out of
view and visibly walking away before he disappears at 205, in the margin. But I welcome
your opinion that the arm didn't freeze but came down slowly, for I think it is more
persuasive, means more, perhaps, than the mere freezing. We agree that he stopped
revolver, which in itself is indicative.

Man, if you can get Babushka's film Her's could be the most sensational film!

On Schiller, Life and Garrison, nothing you do not know about Jim. Schiller is
or recently was also connected with the LA Times, and his action continued to be that
of a federal agent. He threatened Loren Hall, according to Hall, to persuade him to
resist Garrison's subpoena, which Hall had been inclined to honor (my own opinion is
that Jim's in unity offer could be Hall's salvation). He and Jerry Cohen (who has
confirmed this to me in Steve Burton's presence) ganged up on Hall and told him that
the minute he set foot in New Orleans Garrison would lock him up for five years by
simply charging him with perjury. Hall also tells me that Swalley's lawyer is the
one who advised Hall not to go. In a way, however, he left certain.

... says he has nothing in the works, as of two days ago. Hall said they were working on a three-part series, but he may have said the L.A. Times and I may have an indistinct recollection. I have 6-8 hours of him on tape (it surprised everyone that he would see me, leave alone permit me to tape. I gave him the mike switch so anything he wanted could be off the tape!).

My chief interest in Oswald's Beckley room on 11/22 is to see if it needed curtains, if it had them. Do you recall?

I believe besides Ronnie Dugger (I think I have a piece he wrote saying it) Theyer Yaldo was given the same information, by King and others, re: rifle on roof.

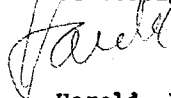
Dick, our recent possible discoveries fit in with the pictures of the arrests. Fred should have them immediately. If you have but a single set to spare, rush them to me so I can have them to Show Sciambra, who is due here about Monday, with other stuff I have, and then I can rush them to Fred. I think it is possible we have another picture of one of the men and also that we have one in a picture taken during the actual assassination.

You are right about it being Walthers. I have known that for some time. One of these pictures is also in Gun's book, as I recall. I have Walthers on tape acknowledging that despite the instructions to Liebeler, which I gave to Jim, Liebeler did not ask him about it. I had a radio newsmen phone him and tape an interview.

Treat just phoned to say he is coming down Sunday. Perhaps you can send the pictures with him and I can then forward them.

I hope this is not too disjointed. It has been five hours since I started. There have been many interruptions, including an hour-long broadcast by phone and the discovery of an itinerant witness I had to work on.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg

On Lifton: I now agree with Maggie that, regardless of whether or not he has psychiatric problems, his actions are those of a provocateur. He waits a year to make a "study" based upon a double conjecture ending in a wrong number and by use of the wrong camera as an illustration, and then, for the pursuit of motives, sends the New York Times a copy to tell them how undeniable my work is. At best he has a conjecture, and at best a dubious motive when one considers all the work to be done. However, whether you or he or anyone else believes it, without a frame by frame establishment of the speed of the Z camera, at each frame, we can never be absolutely certain of its speed. It is, despite Lifton's misrepresentation and Thompson even more cheap pontification, capable of variable speed. What it was doing that day I have no way of knowing. All I have ever done is quote the FBI reports. The part that Lifton exaggerates out of any rational proportion and takes entirely out of context is but a 14-word addition to WWII, clearly stating it was written after the book was completed, quoting Barrett accurately. At the time I did my writing, no duplicate of the camera was available. Remember, it is I and this writing that forced the camera into government possession after the book was done. Since then I have obtained a duplicate, and I tell you I can make it run at any speed from 18 to 48 fps. Now what, aside from this dubious campaign, gave you the idea that I ever mentioned it, I do not know. I haven't since WWII came out, and that was well over a year ago. Those who have failed to accomplish anything, especially those who have failed to move forward and to carry our knowledge forward, seek to exercise a mortgage on the past. Whenever I can I seek to spend what time I have in appearances dealing with new material. I do not go back to the old stuff unless I am asked to. I recall no single case in the past year when I have raised the question of the speed of the camera. There are other things that the people do not know that I speak of. Lifton has just acted as Liebeler's agent in another matter to my knowledge and by his own acknowledgement to me.

The University Club
One West 54th Street
New York, New York 10019

January 31, 1968

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 7
Frederick, Maryland

Dear Harold:

This is in response to your last several letters. Gary Murr wrote me and he is terrific. Similas did have photos. They are not attached to the draft copy for the second Liberty article which you published. I phoned Johnson and he told me they weren't. Gary says the art editor of Liberty says they were, the last time he saw them. This means the FBI probably has them. Any ideas. Two should be valuable, numbers B and C in what you published. The editor remembers seeing JFK and Connally in the car in one of them and the TSBD in the background.

You recall Similas told me one of his photos showed the sixth floor window between the shots with no one in it. The FBI were not very smart but they might have been smart enough to know what that Similas photo meant. Similas and the Liberty editor are key witnesses.

I will write to Miss Brunson. I think she is more right than wrong, but lack of access to photos throws her off on some points. I received your letter to Lifton and I know how strongly you feel about the Zapruder camera speed. I must warn you again about what I discovered from analysis of the Weigman and Zapruder films. Zapruder's camera averaged 18.3 frames per second. Weigman's camera was governed and was running at 24 frames per second (from an interview with him). Since his sequence and Zapruder's coincide at two points; where DIG 2 is rounding corner of Houston & Elm, and where SS1 is going under the overpass, and since both sequences were continuous between these two points, Zapruder's speed can be computed by just counting the number of frames in the two sequences.

With regard to Hargis vs Haygood, it is definitely Haygood. Tink fell into what I call "The Witness Trap". Hargis remembers running up the knoll to the overpass but the photos show he didn't. They show Haygood did. But it takes Weigman, Couch, Bond, Bell, Hughes, Willis and Nix to prove this. Who has all of those to work with?

I have begun a correspondence with Bernebei at your suggestion. I explained to him about the girl in blue on her fathers shoulders. He may visit me on a trip to New Jersey.

On credits, I'm going to explain my feelings in my next edition of the monograph.

On the first shot, I am not sure whether it came from high on the knoll or low on the curb of Elm, if it came from the front. I have eliminated "the little Cuban" standing in front of the man with the umbrella as a suspect. That was John Chism and his wife and baby are beside him.

I wait with great anticipation your new evidence that the first shot was fired prior to Z189. Can the new medical evidence be revealed yet? Willis 5 was at Z202 so I don't understand your point about his camera being down and the time for him to react to the first shot. Certainly his camera was at his eye at Z202. It was there earlier as well. He lowered it well after that.

I calculate as follows: First shot fired at Z189 from knoll. Distance is 250-300 feet. Sound travelling at 1100 feet per second this would be about 1/4 second or 4.5 frames. Reaction time to snap photo at hearing sound would be about 1/2 second, or 9 frames. Total delay 13 - 14 frames. Time of photo, Z202 - 203.

JFK's arm didn't freeze. It jerked slightly from 189-190, then started falling. I've tied Altgens down as taking seven photos at 12:30 PM and 18 more from his #2 position at 5 - 5:30 PM. These included A.P. 4 and Altgens 4 plus two more of JFK on Main, none of which he remembered until I showed him copies from the original negatives. These will be in my new edition.

I've tied down the mysterious guy near Altgens. It was Bothun. I should have known this from his photo. I have a possible lead to the Babushka lady and several more photos of her including one of her face. She lives in Dallas and is 50 - 60 years old. She is probably married to someone involved or has been suppressed.

I found a Congressman in Dallas who has agreed to identify the congressmen with cameras for me. What information do you have on Schiller, Life and Garrison?

With regard to questions on my 4th edition, I was unable to get copies of the Tippitt clipboard on the dashboard or the one in the TSBD, sixth floor. They are down in Dallas at WFAA as well as at Grinburg Library. The rifle with scope removed turned out to be completely innocent. The film has sound and a second look at it showed it was an ABC commentator demonstrating a similar rifle and scope on the ground in Dealey Plaza later in the afternoon. ABC rushed out and bought it.

The Gene Daniels photo, #349, I have in contact print 35mm size which is hard to copy. However, that one can be ordered from Black Star, New York, Send letter c/o Phyllis Tasch, Black Star, 450 Park Avenue South, New York, New York. Actually, there are a series of these taken by Daniels on Saturday morning November 23. Specify #27A through 36A on the roll showing Oswald's room. I'm enclosing one of the "paper bag" taken at 3PM, November 22. Lt. Montgomery's watch shows the time.

I'm interested in Ronnie Dugger and others that King told about the rifle. Maybe that's the origin of the early NBC reports of a British 303 rifle being found in the TSBD.

The early Alyea footage I just recently found at WFAA in Dallas. My trip there was another bonanza as you will learn from edition 5. I was lucky enough to get five more photos of the three "tramps".

Item 129 & 130 - It was Walthers picking up an object. I thought it was Decker in front of the TSBD, but that turns out to be Walthers also. I will track down the tape recordings of that interview and also the one with Brennan in the TSBD doorway at 12:42 PM.

The Kennedy Assassination Committee Forums in New York have gone rather well. I hope you will participate in them.

Kind regards,



Richard E. Sprague

RES/mw
enclosure