

1/13/67

Dear Dick,

It is more than good to hear from you with your offer. Sylvia had told me of your stalwart backstopping but not, as I had feared, of her being so badly outnumbered. Schiller is slippery enough by himself.

There are, indeed, several projects in which I have immediate interest, and no capacity for I've so much more to do than I can, and there are but the two of us with a big hunk out of each day on the printed books, letters, mailings, packaging, billing, etc.

You (and other) appear right about Altgens. I was too hasty in the caption in the appendix, for the text goes through the whole thing properly and correctly. But the real error is Liebler's, and I'd like a comment from him on what I did! I was not aware of the fact that the line shows in the reconstruction picture, but it does, as you say. I do not believe the lines were changed.

Just had a call from Dell, who I'd asked to see if Barry Gray can use me Wednesday night. He can, and I hope alone. Will you please tell Sylvia? I don't know what this will do to my search for a bed with my friends, but I presume the show runs late, as theaters do, but I hope it will not conflict with the hope I expressed to her that we can dine together Tuesday night.

I am working (although I've been able to get little done for several weeks) on WHITEWASH III. There are a number of things I'd like to include. One is a list of lawyers in alphabetical order with the witnesses each examined. I would like this for my debates with them which I believe will come to pass beginning the end of this month. Another is a list of all the pictures available and not sought, seen and/or used by the Commission (which means also the photographers). I presume that at this point, with my basic work having been completed for two years, there are many I'll forget. I plan two of the few chapters on the suppression of evidence, including of the autopsy stuff. So, this could be extremely helpful. Also, I'd like every available reference to any material on any of the characters in the story of the False False Oswald.

I am apparently alone in saying that where Zepruder shows Altgens after 313 may not be where Altgens was at 255. He seems to have said he didn't move. I do not believe it. I believe he probably was where he dumped his bag, and probably slightly behind it. Lillian Castellano was going to send me a copy of the plat, large size, but hasn't. Ray Marcus has already done something with it, of which I have a copy on which he may since have made corrections. I believe he has. If he does not have a copy to spare for you I can return mine to him for checking and he can send it to you, or I can send it directly to you. It is not quite the same size as yours. It comes from Lillian's. Also, 882 and 3 are not quite identical 585 (see my Willis chapters). And on Willis Lillian has done some brilliant work, of which I used Clint Hill's shoulder in addition to my own. If she has no extra copies of what she has done and you want them, I can lend you mine. On Wolper, I've tried in NYC through Metromedia, without success. Ditto in DC. Lifton was going to do something in LA and either didn't or failed. I've seen it in the Archives. I have not done what you project and think it can be valuable. I'd like to use it if you have it done in time, with credit, in III. I hope there will be no IV! Getting our hands on the unused pictures is not easy. I've had no response from those I've written to. It takes too much money to think of what the TV stations have. As soon as I get a chance to do something with the photographers, I'll send you a copy. If you get anything besides those I remember offhand in addition to those you mentioned: Moorman, Hughes, Babushka lady; Simpson and another Canadian from the east, whose names escapes me; Tom Allyea; George Phoenix; Ron Reiland. There is also library work than might be done on False Oswald. Thanks very much for the offer and anything you do.

Sincerely,
Herold Weisberg

Dear Harold:

Shortly after sending you the order for Whitewash II, I contacted Sylvia Meagher. I am now living at The University Club in New York and have access to their 26 volumes in their library. After wasting some time trying to find things, I decided I needed Mrs Meagher's Index. I called her to find out where to obtain a copy and this led to our getting together for lunch.

As a result of that conversation, I offered to help her or any of the current researchers including yourself in any way I could. Being in New York might have some advantages and since I'm now living alone, I have some time available which I had not previously had.

As a result of this offer, Mrs Meagher invited me to attend the Barry Gray show last night, during which she discussed the new Capitol record on the assassination with Mr Shiller who produced it, and three other anti-conspiracy men, including Henry J. Taylor. It was awful. She was so hopelessly outnumbered she could do little to defend the position of the researchers, including you. Shiller quoted you once out of context and Henry Taylor responded by saying he'd never heard of you.

He's never read any of the books

by researchers, nor has he read the Report or any of the 26 volumes. I guess one shouldn't be surprised at this, since Robert Kennedy hasn't either. I do get upset over well meaning members of the Press, Radio and TV and magazines who make supposedly learned comments without having examined the evidence objectively.

Sylvia told me you were going to try to tune in Barry Gray on the second evening. I hope you were able to in spite of the fact that the whole two evening episode made me want to throw up.

I have been trying to do something constructive now that I have more time. I started with your ~~for~~ analysis of the Altgens photograph and the Willis photo, to see if I could prove that the JFK car was behind the oak tree when the photos were taken. The secret service re-enactment photos taken on Dec 5, 1963 are very interesting (Exh 875 I believe) They show the position of a test car from the sixth floor window with respect to the white lines. It seems unlikely that those lines had been repainted or moved by Dec 5, 1963, whereas they might have been by the time of the FBI-Commission re-enactment

Do you know whether those lines were changed ~~then~~, or as of now?

I'm afraid I have some disappointing news for you. Assuming the white lines were not changed up to May 1964, the line next to the front wheel of JFK's car in Altgens' photo appears to be the fifth; not the fourth, line from the corner of Elm & Houston.

There is a white line hidden under the JFK Secret Service follow up car in the Altgens photo. You can tell this by looking at the FBI Re-enactment picture of the Altgens photo. The fourth white line shows in the re-enactment picture in the exact position which would place it under the Secret Service car.

This also checks with Altgens' position and a line drawn on the large surveyor's map of the area (Exhibit 883), between Altgens' position and the line of sight in his photo, passes over the fifth white line rather than the fourth. I have been able to place Altgens on the map because he shows up in the Nix film as well as the Zapruder film. The Zapruder shot of him has no reference point in the background, but the Nix shot of him can be lined up with the steps across Elm St.

However, in spite of this disappointment

There is still the Willis picture, which you have shown in Whitewash II, demonstrates without any doubt, that the JFK car was behind the tree, or had not even reached the tree, at the time of the first shot.

I obtained the large ^(about 24" x 40") original of the surveyor's plat, and am now in the process of spotting all photographs on it and the positions of the JFK car at all frames of Zapruder and the shots taken by Willis, Altgens, Nix & Muchmore. I'm showing on it where the car was behind the oak tree, where the fatal shot hit, where Connally was probably hit, where the first shot probably was fired etc.

I'd like also to spot on it positions of other photographers such as those in the Wolper film you found in the Archives. Can you tell me whether the Wolper movie can be borrowed or purchased?

Have you done any of this already? If so, perhaps I should not spend the time duplicating your efforts and should concentrate on something else which would assist you in your efforts. I have no interest in publishing anything, and would just as soon turn over my results to you for incorporation in Whitewash III or IV.

Sylvia's book is already too far along

To use much of whatever I might do, she has suggested I write to you and offer cooperation.

Can you tell me what other "still" photographers have pictures in the Archives or elsewhere that were not used by the Commission?

I have already noted the Betzner photo and the T.V. footage you mentioned in Whitewash II. How can we get our hands on them?

I have called Wolper Productions in New York to see if I can beg, borrow, buy or steal the JFK film. So far, they don't seem to know about it, although they promised to look into it.

If I can be of any assistance or if you would be interested in anything I might turn up in New York please let me know.

Sincerely,
Dick Sprague

P.S. It gives me great pleasure to be working with the 26 volumes at the University Club. They were donated by one of the members, Mr. John J. McElroy.