

NEW ADDRESS: Rt. 7, Frederick, Md. 21701:::501/473-8186

12/21/87

Dear Dick,

Several weeks ago I caught a cold or something like it in the left shoulder in New Orleans. The time I spend with it and a heat pad has been my reading time. I finally got to your excellent 12/8 mailing of your 4th edition. There are several questions and suggestions. Also, I should like to borrow several of the picture for study.

In your letter: have you a spare print of the clipboard or the rifle with scope removed? These are several of the items that bear or could bear very much on the frameup. Another is #349, especially if you can date it. I'd like to see that very much. Those of the "paper bag", ditto, for I have unpublished data of this. And on the third page of the letter, under "statements" n c, there is other material bearing on this. I believe Ronnie Dugger is one of those who were told essentially this, including by King (who I understand is now chief). Penn may remember this better than I, but more than one reporter was so informed, and officially.

I note no Alyea footage as he ran toward the building. I believe this is the first footage he exposed.

Items 129 and 130: are you certain this is Decker? Al Chapman gave me copies of these pictures several months ago and told me they show Walthers. I take it these are the pictures Jim used recently, and they seem to be scripted as of Walthers. Relating to this are 246 and 277 and 278. First, if it is Walthers and it is he who is interviewed on the steps or near the TSB, then the contents of these interviews, coming five minutes after the discover, could be very important. This could also be true if the interview is of Decker, whose subordinate Walthers was and to whom he could have reported what he found. Then, one of these sequences appears in Merin Gun's book. Its importance is that during Hoover's testimony (SE101), the FBI assured the Commission it would make a detailed study of this book, which, quite obviously, includes the picture in the book. I recall use of no such study in the hearings or its inclusion in the exhibits. Nor is any of this gone into during testimony. For example, not only does the Walthers deposition show he was not questioned about what he found, despite the Hedlich instruction to Liebeler that he do this (I gave this to Jim and he used it), but I got a newspan to ask Walthers if he was asked such questions and his reply that he was not is on tape and I have it.

I am impressed to what you have added to my original discoveries. Impressed is hardly the word. It is terrific. If I can ever get on the air in Dallas, I really think I'll produce more for you.

Keep it up in the new year!

Sincerely,

NEW ADDRESS: Route 7, Frederick, Md. 21701:::473-8186

Dear Dick,

Enclosed is a self-explanatory letter to Dave Lifton with regard to his 12/12/67 memo.

In today's mail I have a letter from someone who is familiar with the evidence and has the 26 volumes suggesting that the recently-printed pictures (post, life) and Thompson's commentary do not show Hargis but more likely show Haygood. I wonder if you have any opinion on this.

If you think it is possible, I think Gary Murr, whose recent correspondence I have sent you, would do a job of tracing the available evidence. If you think it should be done, please write him saying I have suggested it, and you and he will then be in touch with each other.

Then, please, keep me posted.

Best regards,

Harold Weisberg

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

December 8, 1967

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Frederick, Maryland

Dear Harold:

Since sending you the October 15, 1967 edition #4 of my monograph, plus Exhibit 1, a number of new photos have turned up. As a result I brought Exhibit 1B up to date and I enclose it as well as an up to date copy of Exhibit 1.

Not yet listed on Exhibit 1B is the NBC video tape recently discovered by Harold Weisberg as having been received from NBC by the Library of Congress. It's available for viewing and consists of 12,200 feet of TV sound and film tape (122 reels of 1/2hr each) covering the period from 1:15 PM Dallas time Friday, November 22, 1963 to Monday evening November 25.

I have viewed and listened to only the first hour, but it alone has plenty of bombshells. Here are a few samples:

"NBC announcers state that a young man was arrested near the scene of the assassination and taken to the sheriff's office. The description fits Larry Florer. They say immediately following this that a 30-30 rifle was also confiscated at about the same time as the arrest near the place where the shots were fired. (Larry Florer was arrested near the spot where Mentasana's film shows the mysterious rifle and the arrest was very near the same time as the film.)

Announcers in Ft. Worth state that the rifle found on the sixth floor was a British Model 303 and that the three shells found on the floor were British 303 shells.

Again Ft. Worth announcers state that a suspect connected with the assassination was arrested in Ft. Worth after a green car he was driving was tracked down. They say he was stopped at an intersection and that police had him down on the ground.

Several witnesses were interviewed in that first hour and all of them said the shots came from the knoll. These included Jean Hill, Bill Newman, and Holland."

Another recent discovery briefly listed in Exhibit 1B is a 1000 feet reel of film from WFAA, found at the Grinburg library (ABC) in New York. It is not possible to tell who took all of the footage, but the likely candidates are Ron Reiland, Malcolm Couch, A.J. L'Hoste and Tom Alyea. Time has not yet permitted more than a cursory one time run through this film, but it too has some very interesting scenes. Here are some of them:

"Extensive footage of the rifle on the sixth floor being lifted out of its hiding place. Lt. Day dusting a live cartridge for prints near the spot where the rifle was found. A clipboard being examined by a policeman near the same spot. Scenes at the Tippitt shooting location soon afterward. Something resembling a wanted poster can be seen lying on the dashboard of Tippitt's car. No detail can be seen.

A sequence taken in the afternoon on November 22 showing a rifle lying in the grass in Dealey Plaza with a telescopic sight lying beside it on the grass, detached.

(The meaning of this last scene has me completely baffled. I will try to find out about it by interviewing the cameraman.)

Scenes outside Texas Theatre apparently before the arrest. Several police cars can be seen arriving and police milling around outside. (It is known that WFAA cameraman Ron Reiland went into the Theatre before the arrest and took movies of the arrest from the stage.)"

You undoubtedly recognized the fact that Life published the Towner and Paschall photos which have been added to Exhibit 1B. Paschall's was, as indicated, a movie.

Several hundred new photos have recently been discovered in Dallas but are not listed.

At this point in time we have more rifles than we can really use. Here is a summary of rifle photos and information:

PHOTOS

1. Film of "Oswald's" rifle in hiding place and being lifted out on sixth floor .. Alyea, ABC
2. Film of "Oswald's" rifle in hiding place and being lifted out on sixth floor ABC - WFAA
3. Still photo of "Oswald's" rifle in hiding place Studebaker (National Archives)
4. Film of rifle without scope outside TSBD at 1:10PM Mentasana 3 - DCA
5. Still photo of rifle in front of TSBD at 12:43 Willis 10
6. Film of rifle with scope detached on grass in Plaza at about 3:30 -4:00PM November 22 ABC - WFAA
7. Still photo of "Oswald's" rifle being lifted from hiding place Beers, Dallas Morning News
8. Still photos of Lt. Day carrying "Oswald's" rifle from doorway of TSBD to northeast corner of Houston and Elm Beers, Dallas Morning News
9. Same as 8 Wm Allen, Dallas Times Herald

STATEMENTS

- a) Weitzman and several others stating rifle found on sixth floor was a Mauser.
- b) NBC reporting rifle on sixth floor was a British 303.
- c) Capt. King's secretary stating that a rifle was found on the roof of TSBD. No cop had a rifle that day. They all had pump shotguns. (See Murray photos)
- d) NBC reports a 30-30 rifle was found at same time and near where Larry Florer was arrested (corner Houston & Elm)
- e) Several other rifles were seen or picked up in cars and other locations around Dallas.

Someone should do a "rifle" study, tying down the types seen in the various photos and comparing the several photos of "Oswald's" rifle to see if they match.

Finally, there are several photos of the paper bag outside the TSBD at 3PM being removed from the building. It is ridiculously long. There are many many photos taken inside the TSBD just as discoveries are being made, but absolutely none of the bag lying on the floor. This seems very strange, and the fact that it took two hours to get it out of the building, leads one to certain suspicions about it.

RES/mw
Enclosure

Pick
Richard E. Sprague