

7551 Byron Place
Saint Louis, Missouri 63105

September 26, 1967

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Thank you for your letter and your information about Mrs. Lovelady.

Thank you, also, for your remarks about my letter to CBS. They sent me a courteous reply, which surprised me, but didn't explain any of the inconsistencies which didn't surprise me. I think they got their new evidence from you, such as the early shot and the fact that Mr. Zapruder's camera was set at 24 frames per second, and cleverly twisted it around to support the one assassin theory and give us another ^{choice} besides the magic bullet, and answer your charges at the same time. I don't believe they succeeded.

I saw the quotation of Mr. Brehm from the Dallas Times-Herald of November 22, 1963 in an article in the January 1967 issue of Ramparts Magazine entitled "The Case for Three Assassins" by David Welsh and David Lifton. I am enclosing photocopies of the pages on which the quote from the newspaper and the footnote, respectively, appear. I hope that this will be of assistance to you.

Again, thank you for your letter. I am looking forward to your books coming out.

Sincerely,

Grace P. Vale

(Mrs.) Grace P. Vale

Enclosures (2)

lets [an apparent reference to the three spent shells found on the sixth floor of the Depository], three shots is all that we are willing to say right now."⁹³

As soon as the motorcade passed, Mrs. Hill testified, she saw:

... a man up there running, or getting away... at the tip of the slope...⁹⁴

Commission Counsel Arlen Specter had Mrs. Hill indicate the location of the running man on a hand-drawn sketch. The sketch appears in the hearings as "Hill Exhibit 5." It is stamped with the notation, "TOP SECRET."⁹⁵ Nobody knows why.

Within hours of the shooting, a local newsman, James Featherstone, instructed Mrs. Hill not to mention that she had seen the running man. She testified:

He said, "You know you were wrong about seeing a man running." He said, "You didn't..." and I said, "But I did," and he said, "No, don't say that any more on the air..." He said... that the shots had come from a window up in the Depository and for me not to say that any more, that I was wrong about it...⁹⁶

D17. CHARLES BREHM told police reporter George Carter of The Dallas Times-Herald that he was standing on the curb approximately ten feet from the Presidential limousine when the shots struck. Carter wrote: "Brehm seemed to think the shots came from in front of or beside the President. He explained the President did not slump forward as he would have after being shot from the rear."⁹⁷

D. WITNESSES IN OR IMMEDIATELY OUTSIDE THE DEPOSITORY

D18. WILLIAM SHELLEY, manager of the Depository, testified that he was on the top landing of the entrance watching the motorcade when he heard the shots:

BALL: What seemed to be the direction or source of the sound?

SHELLEY: Sounded like it came from the west.⁹⁸

The Oswald "nest," of course, was directly over Shelley's head. To the west of his position is the Grassy Knoll area.

D19. ROY S. TRULY, superintendent of the Depository, was standing in front of the building at the time of the shots. He joined a policeman, Marrion Baker, and showed him the way to the top of the Depository.

[Commission Counsel David] BELIN: Where did you think the shots came from?

TRULY: I thought the shots came from the vicinity [of] the railroad or the WPA project, behind the WPA project west of the building [the reference is to the pavilion on the Knoll].

BELIN: Did you have any conversation with the officer... about where you thought the shots came from?

TRULY: I said, "... I think we are wasting our time up here," or words to that effect, "I don't believe these shots came from the building."⁹⁹

D20. OCHUS VIRGIL CAMPBELL, vice-president of the Depository, was standing next to Truly in front of the building. He gave an affidavit to the FBI:

... I heard shots being fired from a point which I thought was near the railroad tracks located over the viaduct on Elm Street.¹⁰⁰

D21. STEVEN F. WILSON, vice-president of a textbook publishing company, watched the motorcade from his corner office on the third floor of the Depository—three floors directly beneath the Oswald "nest." Wilson said in an FBI affidavit:

At that time it seemed the shots came from the west end of the building or from the colonnade located on Elm Street across from the west end of our building. The shots really did not sound like they came from above me.¹⁰¹

D22. MRS. ALVIN HOPSON was looking out of a fourth floor window on the south side of the Depository, facing on Elm Street, during the assassination. Although she was never called by the Warren Commission, she was questioned by the FBI, which reported:

She stated that it did not sound to her like the sounds were coming from her building... She stated she thought they had been set off on the street below, and she saw people on the street running toward the underpass and the railroad tracks.¹⁰²

D23. MRS. CHARLES THOMAS (AVERY) DAVIS was standing on the steps of the Depository, where she worked, when she heard "three explosions." She told the FBI, "I did not know from which direction the shots had come, but thought they were from the direction of the viaduct which crosses Elm Street west from where I was standing."¹⁰³

D24. DOROTHY ANN GARNER was watching the motorcade from a fourth floor window in the Depository when she heard the shots. She said in an FBI affidavit, "I thought at the time the shots or reports came from a point to the west of the building."¹⁰⁴

D25. MRS. GEORGE ANDREW (DOLORES ARLENE) KOUNAS was outside the Depository, her place of employment, when she heard gunfire. She told the FBI:

Although I was across the street from the Depository building and was looking in the direction of the building as the motorcade passed and following the shots, I did not look up at the building as I had thought the shots came from a westerly direction in the vicinity of the viaduct.¹⁰⁵

D26. OTIS NEVILLE WILLIAMS, a book-keeping supervisor at the Depository, who

was standing on the steps of the building when the assassination occurred, told the FBI that he heard "three loud blasts" and that "I thought these blasts or shots came from the direction of the viaduct which crosses Elm Street."¹⁰⁶

D27. VICTORIA ADAMS was watching from a pair of windows on the fourth floor of the Book Depository, where she worked. The alleged assassin's window was two floors above her and to her left; the Grassy Knoll was below and to her right. Testifying about the source of the shots, she said, "... It seemed as if it came from the right below rather than from the left above."¹⁰⁷

D28. BILLY LOVELADY, an employee of the Depository who at the time of the assassination was standing on the steps at the entrance to the building, was questioned by Commission Counsel Joseph Ball:

BALL: Where was the direction of the sound?

LOVELADY: Right there around that concrete little deal on that knoll...

BALL: How did you happen to go down there?

LOVELADY: ... because everybody was running... toward that way; everybody thought it was coming from that direction.¹⁰⁸

Lovelady told the FBI, "I did not at any time believe the shots had come from the Texas School Book Depository Building."¹⁰⁹

D29. DANNY ARCE, who was standing in front of the Depository, where he worked, testified: "I thought [the shots] came from the railroad tracks to the west" of the Depository.¹¹⁰

D30. WESLEY FRAZIER, the Depository employee who had driven Oswald to work that morning, was standing on the steps of the Depository building. He testified:

Well, to be frank with you I thought it come from down there, you know, where that underpass is. There is a series, quite a few number, of them railroad tracks running together and from where I was standing it sounded like it was coming from down the railroad tracks there.¹¹¹

D31. JOSEPH MOLINA was standing on the steps of the Depository building. He was interviewed by the Commission:

BALL: Where—what was the source of the sound?

MOLINA: ... sort of kind of came from the west side... I didn't want to think what was happening... but I wanted to find out so I went down to where the grassy slope is...¹¹²

D32. MRS. DONALD BAKER, who had been standing at the southwestern corner of the Depository—at the end of the building nearest the Grassy Knoll—testified that she heard shots after the President's car passed the building.

the clear markings on the pathologist's diagram, the autopsy surgeons were not questioned about them.

47—WR 98.

48—New York Times, Nov. 23, 1963; italics added.

49—New York Times, Nov. 27, 1963; italics added.

50—New York Times, Nov. 27, 1963; italics added.

51—Life undertook to explain the contradiction in its issue of Nov. 29, 1963: "But the 8-mm. film shows the President turning his body far around to the right as he waves to someone in the crowd. His throat is exposed—toward the sniper's nest—just before he clutches it." (italics added)

Unfortunately for Life's explanation, the Zapruder film shows no such thing. One had only to look at the film frames published in that same issue—and more recently republished in Life for November 25, 1966—to see that the President was clearly facing forward and turned slightly to the right when he was shot.

52—St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Dec. 1, 1963; italics added.

53—The problem of resolving an entry wound in the throat with the proposition that a lone assassin was firing from the rear, hadn't gone away by the following week. The New York Times reported: "... Thirteen days after the assassination of President Kennedy, federal investigators were still reconstructing the crime on film today. . . . One question was *how the President could have received a bullet in the front of the throat from a rifle in the Texas School Book Depository after his car had passed the building and was turning a gentle curve away from it.* One explanation from a competent source was that the President had turned to his right to wave, and was struck at that moment." (Times, Dec. 6, 1963; italics added.)

54—If the FBI, in reconstructing the event 13 days later, had access to the conclusion of the autopsy—that the throat wound was a wound of exit—it might not have puzzled over this problem. According to Dr. Humes, the autopsy report was written and transmitted to "higher authority" by Sunday, November 24. Why was the FBI reconstructing the crime the "wrong" way on December 5? Did it have the final autopsy report? Did it have another, earlier version? The next lines from the same Times story are not reassuring: "The best authority presumable on the *exact angle of entry* of the bullet is the man who conducted the autopsy. He is Dr. J. J. Humes of the Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md. Dr. Humes said he has been forbidden to talk." (Times, Dec. 6, 1963; italics added.)

55—On the following March 16, Dr. Humes was indeed an authority, before the

Warren Commission—on the angle of exit. Yet if we are to accept the findings of the Commission—then we must also accept the spectacle of the FBI reconstructing the crime *as though the front neck wound were one of entrance inflicted by a lone assassin firing from behind*, and doing so two weeks after the autopsy, apparently without access to authoritative medical evidence as to the origin of the shots. J. Edgar Hoover disclosed that the FBI and the Warren Commission did not receive *official* copies of the autopsy report until December 23, 1963, from the Secret Service. (New York Times, Nov. 26, 1966.)

56—St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Dec. 18, 1963.

57—VI, 43.

58—VI, 9.

59—VI, 37.

60—VI, 55.

61—VI, 42.

62—VI, 141.

63—III, 362; italics added.

64—III, 362; WR 92.

65—III, 373; WR 92.

66—VI, 42; italics added.

67—VI, 55.

67-A—Harold Feldman, *Minority of One*, March 1965.

67-B—WR 19.

68—XXIV, 212.

69—VI, 244.

70—VI, 247.

71—VI, 244-6.

72—VI, 230.

73—XXII, 833.

74—XXII, 836.

75—VI, 225.

76—XIX, 485.

77—VII, 571.

78—VII, 571-2.

79—VII, 576.

80—Dallas Morning News, Nov. 23, 1963; Feldman, *Minority of One*, March, 1965.

81—XXIV, 218.

82—XXII, 843.

83—XXIV, 204.

84—XXIV, 205.

85—XXIV, 219; italics added.

86—XXIV, 213.

87—VII, 560; italics added.

88—XIX, 486.

89—VI, 195-6.

90—VI, 206-7.

91—VI, 212-3.

92—VI, 207.

93—VI, 220-1.

94—VI, 210-3.

95—XX, 158.

96—VI, 222.

97—Dallas Times-Herald, Nov. 22, 1963

98—VI, 328-9.

99—III, 227.

100—XXII, 638.

101—XXII, 685.

102—XXIV, 521.

103—XXII, 642.

104—XXII, 648.

105—XXII, 659.

106—XXII, 683.

107—VI, 388.

108—VI, 338-9.

109—XXII, 652.

110—VI, 365.

111—II, 234.

112—VI, 371-2.

113—VII, 510-1.

114—III, 204.

115—III, 175.

116—III, 177.

117—XIX, 508.

118—XIX, 502.

119—XIX, 540.

120—VII, 106.

121—VII, 109.

122—XIX, 524.

123—XIX, 514.

124—XIX, 458.

125—XIX, 530.

126—XIX, 528.

127—XIX, 511.

128—XIX, 543.

129—VI, 173.

130—II, 73.

131—II, 74.

132—II, 144.

133—XVIII, 739.

134—XVIII, 754-5.

135—VII, 345.

136—XXI, 390-1.

137—VI, 294-6.

138—VI, 298.

139—VII, 568-9.

140—VII, 535.

141—The Texas Observer, Dec. 13, 1963.

142—VI, 233.

143—II, 162.

144—IV, 149; italics added.

145—VI, 159-60.

146—VII, 473.

147—VI, 286-8.

148—VII, 557.

149—XIX, 492.

150—II, 180-1.

151—See Part One, section 5, for a consideration of the possibility that the Carcano rifle was not used in the assassination.

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