

Dear Abbey,

2/8/75

Thanks for your 2/4, the valuable enclosures, and the foresight of adding a broad piece of tape to the clasp on the flap of the envelope that has an adhesive. Except for the tape and the clasp, it was undone when it reached me today.

There should be a decision in the Ray case in about 10 days. Be glad to do another show then. I had a number of nice letters from the last one. Please tell your guy, however, that I do not live in Baltimore. He said both on the show.

The current road show tacked to the Zapruder film is counterproductive and the more attention to the insane parts the more counterproductive. I have no questions about Gregory's or Grodin's intentions but the deepest about those with them and about their knowledge and the things they say. I know both well. I am godfather to Grodin's son.

Grodin has done really brilliant work beginning with a copy of the Zapruder film whose history I know but can't say. I have a copy better than that in the Archives. He did this work originally for me. They were to have used in Chicago Friday work with the pictures of Oswald with the rifle that another did for me in California in 2/68 and then also went off on his own with, lacking both the required knowledge and the essential understanding and thus killing the possible benefit.

So, I particularly appreciate these copies of the UPI wire, none of which I'd seen. I hope you can do this as long as the story is live and that you can get those working other shifts to save the copy for you.

I expect this may in the end be used in defense of the CIA. If you want the whole story, call me when you are free.

Grodin has done much more work than he can now use on TV. He has done, he then said for me and eventually with my work for an archive, an enormous amount of work. He took each individual frame and made identical isolations, as of JFK, Connally, etc, and made an entirely new film with each. It was not in any way dishonest. It merely eliminate from each version what would be distracting to the eye in studying particular evidence. I now doubt that in the end this work will be in an archive with mine because he is off on an unrecognized ego trip. I suspect it is caused less by a desire for self-promotion than by frustration to which Gregory added considerable pressure when they met in Boston. They rapped until 5 the next morning and by then Grodin had decided to run the risk, which ranges from ruining a movie he'd planned to being sued.

If Grodin had been able to restrict himself to the film's evidence that can't be questioned the result would have been quite significant. However, with all the garbage piled on, they wound up turning off people in management who had risked being sued to end suppression. I know from inside, where I have friends. Example: between Chicago and Washington the number of assassins proven by the film grew from four to not less than six. The film can be used to prove not less than two. And that when it was never out of Life's hands it was corrupted not less than twice, at the two most significant points. Plus the FBI's and Commission's knowledge - and silence about it. But the figures he says he sees (and I am among those who do not) mean nothing if they are actually there. One at least of these two is not new. I wrote about it five years ago this month and it has since been confirmed by Itak. That, however, does not in any way indicate more than a man behind a fence looking at his President.

Assuming he can prove all the shots he claims, and he can't (which does not by any means mean there were not at least four) he is otherwise in error about them including even their sequence. He believes and believing is enough for him. Proof becomes irrelevant. He always tries his work out on me and he was here about a month ago. I warned him then that where he positioned an alleged shoot was totally impossible from irrefutable evidence.

In short, what could have been extremely worthwhile and did take courage and cost Gregory much money is now, in effect, a Department of Disinformation operation. Intent thus becomes irrelevant. The whole project saddens. But I want to watch and know, so many thanks for the copy. Sincerely,



4100 City Line Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19131 (215) TR9 1600

FEBRUARY 4

DEAR HAROLD,

I NEVER DID THANK YOU FORMALLY FOR DOING THE "CROSSFIRE" SHOW WITH US. I MUST APOLOGIZE FOR CUTTING YOUR SEGMENT SHORT, BUT THE GIRL WHO WORKS WITH BILL JONES HAD SCHEDULED SOME UN-EXPECTED GUESTS. WE WOULD, HOWEVER, LIKE TO HAVE YOU ON AGAIN, PROBABLY IN CONNECTION WITH NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE RAY CASE. I WILL BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH YOU ON THAT.

HERE IS THE LATEST UPI ON THE WARREN COMMISSION AND RELATED MATTERS. I'D BE CURIOUS TO FIND OUT WHERE GRODEN GOT THE ZAPRUDER FILM, AND HOW.

REGARDS,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Amy', written in dark ink.

WFIL—A SUBSIDIARY OF  BROADCASTING CORPORATION

KILT-AM-FM, Houston, Tex. WIL-AM-FM, St. Louis, Mo. WAVY-TV, Tidewater, Va. WAKY-AM, Louisville, Ky. KAAY-AM, Little Rock, Ark.
WBBF-AM/WBFB-FM, Rochester, N.Y. WAND-TV, Champaign-Decatur-Springfield, Ill. KEEL-AM-FM, Shreveport, La.

R A

KENNEDY 2-4

DAY LD

BY ROBERT MACKAY

CHICAGO (UPI) -- ROBERT GRODEN SAYS MORE THAN ONE PERSON WAS INVOLVED IN THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN KENNEDY, THAT LEE HARVEY OSWALD HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT -- AND THAT HE HAS THE FILM TO PROVE IT.

GRODEN IS A NEW YORK PHOTOGRAPHER AND OPTICAL SPECIALIST. HE SHOWED THE FILM MONDAY AT A NEWS CONFERENCE CALLED BY POLITICAL ACTIVIST DICK GREGORY, WHO SAID LAST WEEK HE HAD EVIDENCE INDICATING THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WAS INVOLVED IN THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION.

GREGORY SAID THE FILM WAS PARTIALLY TO BACK UP THOSE ALLEGATIONS.

GRODEN SAID THE FILM WAS A BLOWN-UP VERSION OF THE ABRAHAM ZAPRUDER FILM, THE ONLY ONE OF THE ACTUAL SHOOTING, AND THAT IT SHOWED "AS MANY AS FOUR, POSSIBLY FIVE" PERSONS WERE SHOOTING AT THE PRESIDENT, AND PROVES OSWALD "HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ASSASSINATION."

HE SAID THE FILM WAS THE PROPERTY OF TIME INC. BUT REFUSED TO SAY HOW THE FILM WAS OBTAINED.

THIS WAS THE SAME FILM THE WARREN COMMISSION STUDIED BEFORE CONCLUDING OSWALD ACTED ALONE IN THE KILLING OF KENNEDY.

KENNEDY WAS KILLED IN A MOTORCADE IN DALLAS, TEXAS, ON NOV. 22, 1963. OSWALD WAS ARRESTED FOR THE ASSASSINATION AND WAS HIMSELF KILLED IN THE DALLAS POLICE HEADQUARTERS BY A BYSTANDER, JACK RUBY.

THE FILM, ENLARGED AND SHOWN IN SLOW MOTION, SHOWED KENNEDY BEING HIT IN THE HEAD. GRODEN SAID THE FILM SHOWS THE FORCE OF THE BULLET PUSHING KENNEDY BACK AND TO HIS LEFT, INDICATING HE WAS SHOT FROM THE FRONT AND NOT FROM THE BACK AS WAS ORIGINALLY THOUGHT.

THE FILM ALSO SHOWS TWO MEN GRODEN SAID WERE SHOOTING AT KENNEDY. ONE WAS BEHIND A PEDESTAL ON A GRASSY KNOLL IN FRONT OF THE MOTORCADE. THE OTHER IS ALSO IN FRONT OF THE MOTORCADE, UNDER A LOW TREE, AND HIS HEAD IS VISIBLE ON THE FILM.

GRODEN SAID HE IS CARRYING A RIFLE, BUT IT IS HARD TO DISTINGUISH THE "RIFLE" FROM THE TREE BRANCHES. BOTH ARE BLURRED IN THE FILM.

UPI 02-04 01:12 RES

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D A

KENNEDY 2-4

1ST ADD DAY LD-KENNEDY CHICAGO XX THE FILM.

GRODEN SAID AT LEAST SIX BULLETS WERE FIRED AT KENNEDY -- NOT THREE AS THE WARREN COMMISSION HAD CONCLUDED.

THE FIRST SHOT MISSED THE PRESIDENT AND HIT A STREET CURB, HE SAID, AND WAS LATER REMOVED BY THE FBI. HE SAID THE SECOND SHOT WAS FIRED FROM BEHIND AND HIT KENNEDY IN THE BACK AND THE THIRD SHOT HIT THEN GOV. JOHN CONNALLY OF TEXAS IN THE SHOULDER.

THE FOURTH, SHOT FROM BEHIND, HE SAID, HIT KENNEDY IN THE HEAD AND THEN THE FIFTH HIT KENNEDY IN THE FRONT OF THE HEAD AND LIFTED HIM BACKWARDS.

"THE SHOT FROM BEHIND THAT HIT HIM IN THE HEAD AND THEN THE ONE FROM THE FRONT WERE FIRED IN LESS THAN ONE-EIGHTEENTH OF A SECOND," GRODEN SAID.

HE SAID A BULLET FIRED FROM OSWALD'S SUPPOSED POSITION IN THE WINDOW OF THE TEXAS BANK DEPOSITORY WOULD HAVE HIT KENNEDY AT A DIFFERENT ANGLE THAN ANY OF THE WOUNDS HE RECEIVED.

GREGORY SAID THE FILM WAS SUPPRESSED FOR 11 YEARS BECAUSE "IT WAS LIMITED TO EXCERPTS AND STILL PHOTOGRAPHS THAT FAILED TO SHOW THE IMPORTANT POINTS OF THE FILM AND ITS IMPLICATIONS."

GREGORY SAID HE WILL MEET WITH THE ROCKEFELLER COMMISSION PRESENTLY INVESTIGATING CIA ACTIVITIES, AND MORE EVIDENCE WILL BE RELEASED IN THE NEXT THREE OR FOUR WEEKS ON THE ASSASSINATION.

UPI 02-04 01:16 RES

A020

R A

WARREN 2-4

DAY LD

BY JOHN MILNE

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- "READING THE WARREN COMMISSION REPORT ON PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION WAS LIKE RIPPING THE BANDAGE FROM A STILL FRESH WOUND," WROTE MERRIMAN SMITH, WHO WAS THERE.

A DECADE LATER, THE WOUND MAY NOT BE HEALED.

THE NINE MEMBERS, CHAIRED BY CHIEF JUSTICE EARL WARREN, TOOK 10 MONTHS AFTER JOHN KENNEDY'S DEATH, NOV. 22, 1963, TO PREPARE THEIR REPORT. IT MADE TWO SIGNIFICANT POINTS, BOTH CRITICIZED FOR YEARS:

-- "ON THE BASIS OF THESE FINDINGS, THE COMMISSION HAS CONCLUDED THAT LEE HARVEY OSWALD WAS THE ASSASSIN OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY."

-- "IN ITS ENTIRE INVESTIGATION THE COMMISSION HAS FOUND NO EVIDENCE OF CONSPIRACY, SUBVERSION OR DISLOYALTY TO THE U. S. GOVERNMENT BY ANY FEDERAL, STATE OR LOCAL OFFICIAL."

SINCE JOHN KENNEDY, HIS BROTHER ROBERT AND THE REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING WERE KILLED, A WHOLE BREED OF ASSASSINATION BUFFS HAVE BEEN SPANNED -- MEN AND WOMEN ABLE TO LIST THE GRISLY EVENTS IN DALLAS WITH THE EASE OF A BASEBALL FAN REMEMBERING THE PLAYS IN A WORLD SERIES GAME.

THE WATERGATE DISCLOSURES GAVE CREDIBILITY TO WHAT ONCE SEEMED FLIGHTS OF FANCY. EMPLOYEES OF THE WHITE HOUSE CAUGHT BUGGING THE OPPOSITE PARTY. THE NO. 2 PRESIDENTIAL AIDE CONVICTED IN THE BURGLARY OF DANIEL ELLSBERG'S PSYCHIATRIST. FOUR OF RICHARD NIXON'S TOP AIDES CONVICTED OF OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE.

MORE MORE

UPI 02-04 01:36 AE

R A

WARREN 2-4

1ST ADD A020

IN THIS ATMOSPHERE, A NEW SERIES OF STATEMENTS HAS BEEN MADE ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S ASSASSINATION WHICH INCLUDE:

-- A NEWS CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO MONDAY CONDUCTED BY CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST DICK GREGORY. HE SHOWED A FILM OF THE NOV. 22, 1963, ASSASSINATION, BLOWN UP AND IN SLOW MOTION. AN OPTICAL SPECIALIST, ROBERT GRODEN, SAID "AS MANY AS FOUR, POSSIBLY FIVE," PERSONS TOOK PART IN THE KILLING. GREGORY SAYS THE CIA WAS INVOLVED.

-- A THREE-DAY CONFERENCE IN BOSTON, SPONSORED BY THE ASSASSINATION INFORMATION BUREAU, ENDED SUNDAY WITH A CALL FOR A PETITION DRIVE TO MAKE THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION AN ISSUE IN THE 1976 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN. PRESIDENT FORD WAS A MEMBER OF THE WARREN COMMISSION.

-- A STATEMENT BY THE OFFICE OF REP. HENRY GONZALEZ, D-TEX., THAT HE WOULD SEEK A CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION INTO POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS.

-- A COPY OF WASHINGTONIAN MAGAZINE, CURRENTLY ON NEWS STANDS, MAKES NO NEW CHARGES, BUT FINDS IT SIGNIFICANT THAT WATERGATE FIGURE E. HOWARD HUNT WAS IN MEXICO CITY WHEN ALLEGED ASSASSIN LEE HARVEY OSWALD WAS THERE SEEKING A PASSPORT TO CUBA.

UPI 02-04 01:44 AE5

WARREN 2-4

1ST ADD DAY LD WARREN WASHINGTON XX TO CUBA.

FOR MANY PERSONS WHO REMEMBER WHAT THEY WERE DOING WHEN THEY HEARD KENNEDY WAS SHOT, NEW DISCUSSIONS OF THE ASSASSINATION EVOKE MEMORIES LIKE THOSE OF SMITH, THE LATE UPI REPORTER WHO WAS FOUR CARS AWAY FROM KENNEDY WHEN THE GUN WENT OFF. HE WON A PULITZER PRIZE FOR HIS REPORTING. HE WAS ON THE TEAM THAT SPENT THREE DAYS WITH THE 888-PAGE WARREN REPORT.

"WHILE EXAMINING THE DRY LANGUAGE OF REPORTS ON THE KENNEDY AUTOPSY PERFORMED AFTER HIS BODY WAS RETURNED TO WASHINGTON, I FELT AN UNEASY CHILL OF REMEMBRANCE," SMITH WROTE IN SEPTEMBER, 1964.

"WHEN THE KENNEDY CAR STOPPED AT THE ENTRANCE TO PARKLAND HOSPITAL THAT SUNNY AFTERNOON, I RAN TO THE SIDE OF THE VEHICLE. THE PRESIDENT WAS FACE DOWN ON THE BACK SEAT, INERT AND FOR ALL PRACTICAL MEASUREMENTS, DEAD AT THAT MOMENT.

"MRS. KENNEDY CRADLED HER ARMS AROUND HIS HEAD AND I REPORTED AT THE TIME SHE SEEMED TO BE WHISPERING TO HIM," HE CONTINUED. "FROM THE WARREN COMMISSION, I LEARNED SHE WAS SAYING 'I LOVE YOU JACK.' BUT HE DIDN'T HEAR HER. HE HAD HEARD NOTHING SINCE OSWALD'S SECOND BULLET BLEW AWAY PART OF HIS HEAD. THE AUTOPSY SAID THE HEAD WOUND MEASURED FIVE INCHES AT ITS GREATEST DIAMETER."

SMITH SAID HE AND SOME OF THE SECRET SERVICE AGENTS ON DUTY HAD TERRIBLE DREAMS.

"OVER A PERIOD OF WEEKS -- PERHAPS MONTHS, FOR I LOST COUNT -- NOT A NIGHT PASSED WITHOUT MY HEARING IN TROUBLED SLEEP THOSE THREE SHARP RIFLE SHOTS ... THE SCREAM OF SIRENS ... THE SKIDDING STOP IN THE HOSPITAL DRIVEWAY ... BROWN BUBBLES COMING FROM THE CHEST WOUND OF GOV. JOHN CONNALLY OF TEXAS ... THE DARK STAIN SPREADING DOWN THE SUIT OF THE FACE-DOWN KENNEDY," HE WROTE.

"THIS AWFUL NIGHTMARISH PERIOD PASSED EVENTUALLY, BUT IT COMES BACK AGAIN OCCASIONALLY. AND NOW THE WARREN REPORT. DEAR GOD, MAY I NEVER DREAM AGAIN. AT LEAST NOT THIS DREAM."

UPI 02-04 01:50 AES

DAY LD

DALLAS (UPI) -- JUNE OSWALD PORTER WAS IN THE SECOND GRADE AND THE SUBJECT WAS THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN KENNEDY.

"IT GREW QUITE ANIMATED, LEADING JUNE TO RAISE HER HAND AND VOLUNTEER 'MY FIRST DADDY KILLED HIM,'" MARINA OSWALD PORTER SAID.

"SHE SAID IT JUST AS A FACT, YOU KNOW. SOMETHING SHE KNEW AND SHOULD PERHAPS TELL."

MRS. PORTER, WIDOW OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD, REMARRIED IN 1965. JUNE, NOW 13, AND RACHAEL, 11, ARE HER CHILDREN BY HER FIRST MARRIAGE.

NOW, A NEW YORK PHOTOGRAPHER AND OPTICAL SPECIALIST, ROBERT GRODEN, THINKS LEE HARVEY OSWALD WAS INNOCENT.

GRODEN STUDIED THE ONLY MOVIE TAKEN OF THE ASSASSINATION, HAD PARTS OF IT ENLARGED, AND SHOWED IT IN CHICAGO MONDAY. HE SAID IT PROVES OSWALD "HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ASSASSINATION."

MARINA PORTER DOESN'T LIKE TO TALK TO THE NEWS MEDIA. NEITHER DOES HER HUSBAND, KENNETH PORTER, BUT HE TOLERATES IT.

PORTER SAID MONDAY HIS WIFE IS INTERESTED IN ANY DEVELOPMENT THAT WOULD ABSOLVE HER FORMER HUSBAND OF KENNEDY'S MURDER "FOR THE SAKE OF THE KIDS."

BUT CONCERNING GRODEN'S CLAIMS, PORTER SAID HIS WIFE "HAS NO POSITIVE FEELINGS EITHER WAY TO THE BEST OF MY UNDERSTANDING."

SINCE KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION IN DALLAS ON NOV. 22, 1963, THERE HAVE BEEN THOSE WHO BELIEVE EITHER OSWALD HAD SOME HELP OR THAT HE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ASSASSINATION. OSWALD WAS KILLED TWO DAYS AFTER THE ASSASSINATION BY NIGHTCLUB OWNER JACK RUBY.

RUBY HAS SINCE DIED OF CANCER.

UP TO HIS DEATH, FORMER PRESIDENT LYNDON JOHNSON, WHO RODE IN THE KENNEDY MOTORCADE THAT DAY, THOUGHT THERE WAS A CONSPIRACY, ACCORDING TO A CLOSE FRIEND.

"THERE'S BOUND TO HAVE BEEN SOMEBODY ELSE INVOLVED," THE FRIEND QUOTED JOHNSON AS SAYING. "IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT THERE WASN'T ANY MORE TO IT THAN WAS DISCOVERED."

THE FRIEND ADDED, "IT WAS NEVER ANY ATTEMPT ON LBJ'S PART TO DAMAGE THE WARREN COMMISSION REPORT," WHICH CONCLUDED OSWALD WAS RESPONSIBLE AND ACTED ALONE. "HE JUST QUESTIONED IT, LIKE ANYBODY."

LEO JANOS, WRITING IN THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY, SAID JOHNSON TOLD HIM IN AN INTERVIEW JUST BEFORE HIS DEATH THAT HE NEVER BELIEVED OSWALD ACTED ALONE, ALTHOUGH HE COULD ACCEPT THE CONCLUSION THAT OSWALD PULLED THE TRIGGER.

UPI 02-04 01:23 AES

R A

OSWALD 2-4

1ST ADD DAY LD OSWALD DALLAS XX THE TRIGGER.

JANOS SAID JOHNSON TOLD HIM HE HAD FOUND "A YEAR OR SO BEFORE KENNEDY'S DEATH A CIA-BACKED ASSASSINATION TEAM HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN HAVANA. JOHNSON SPECULATED THAT DALLAS HAD BEEN A RETALIATION FOR THIS THWARTED ATTEMPT, ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT PROVE IT."

RETIRED DALLAS POLICE CHIEF JESSE CURRY -- WHO WAS IN THE LEAD CAR OF THE NOV. 22 PARADE -- SAID OF OSWALD:

"I THINK HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN INFLUENCED OR HELPED BY SOMEBODY. I HAVE NEVER BEEN COMPLETELY SATISFIED THAT THERE WAS NOT SOMEBODY BEHIND THE BRICK WALL, FIRING THAT SHOT."

DALLAS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY HENRY WADE, WHO PROSECUTED RUBY FOR KILLING OSWALD, SAID:

"I DON'T THINK LEE HARVEY OSWALD SUDDENLY WOKE UP ONE MORNING AND DECIDED ALL BY HIMSELF TO KILL THE PRESIDENT."

WADE SAID HE BELIEVES OSWALD HAD SOME HELP. "IT IS A GUT FEELING. I WAS IN THE ROOM WITH HIM ABOUT FIVE MINUTES AND HE NEVER SAID ANYTHING. I WAS GOING TO INTERVIEW HIM SUNDAY EVENING BUT, AS IT TURNED OUT, I NEVER GOT THE CHANCE."

WADE SAID OSWALD'S ACTIVITIES IN NEW ORLEANS ON BEHALF OF THE FIDEL CASTRO GOVERNMENT IN CUBA "EXPLAIN HIM AS WELL AS ANYTHING -- SOMETIME BEFORE THAT KENNEDY HAD HAD THAT NEAR CONFRONTATION WITH THE RUSSIANS OVER CUBA."

UPI 02-04 01:31 AES

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