

Mr. Ben Bradlee
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7/ /91

Dear Ben,

On the chance that in a few non-office moments this recollection of before your time may interest you I enclose a copy.

I also want to wish you happiness and success in your new undertakings and to repress a regret.

You probably don't remember the few pages of an FBI report I gave you in May, 1967. They did interest you, but only long enough to make an assignment to read my first book.

If you had later given it some thought and if you had then decided to go farther, it might have had a big impact on history.

LBJ had ordered a definitive investigation ^{by} of Hoover. When completed it was of five volumes, the first the text relating to, supposedly, the JFK assassination but was actually a diatribe against Oswald. Those two pages held the two sentences - there were only these two sentences - on the assassination.

There isn't even mention of the fatal wound to the head!

The FBI knew the shooting attributed to Oswald was impossible for the world's best marksmen. Yet Hoover had had the instant vision of a lone-nut assassin, and The Director Was Always Right.

Knowing also that what Arlen Specter later invented for the Commission was impossible, that one of those bullets could have inflicted ^{non-fatal} seven wounds on both victims, the FBI did not dare say that. Instead, it merely forgot the bullet that missed and caused a minor wound on a bystander at the opposite end of Dealey Plaza.

I know of no FBI abandonments of its "solution," which refutes that of the Commission. It said the first bullet hit Kennedy, the ^{the third hit Kennedy} second hit Connally, and that is the end of the basis of the Commission's conclusion, Specter's "single-bullet" theory.

Senator Russell and as I recall Cooper disagreed with this theory. He encouraged me in my work to his dying day. He had been conned by Rankin. He'd forced an executive session for 9/15/63 at which he wanted to make his record for history. Russell presumed that the stenographer there was the court reporter. Rankin did not have any court reporter. He had that steno phony up the first page of a transcript and the rest is a memo of what Rankin did not want expunged from the record.

Good luck!

Harold
Harold Weisberg