

Dr. Cyril Wecht  
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3/30/87

Dear Cyril,

As you say in your letter of the 26, actual analysis of the picture in question falls within the province of criminalists. However, and I think another picture is really required, this is so clear that the meaning becomes obvious and I think that common sense is all that is required.

I have only one print. I know I have the negative from which it was made, as I'll explain below. So, lacking expertise with our copier at different exposures (my wife almost always makes the copies because I cannot stand), I made several, which I enclose in the event you cannot put your hands on the print I sent you years ago, and I've made a few marks on the one I'll have on top. It is apparent to the inexperienced and unaided eye that one slit is half again as long as the other, that they do not coincide in any way, and that they do not even bear the same relationship to the collarband of the shirt when the button and buttonhole are, thanks to the FBI, in perfect alignment.

It also is obvious, and again in this no criminalists expertise is required, that in each of these two slits is below the button and buttonhole. This is of great importance because it is absolutely necessary that the alleged bullet nicked the knot of the tie, the other required picture of which I do not have a clear print. ONLY, the small nick on the knot of the tie was at the extreme upper edge of the left side as worn and I think it is obvious that even if a bullet caused these slits it could not have caused any ~~nick~~ nick in the tie at that extreme. This is one of the reasons why, when I filed suit in about 1970, I asked that they take pictures of the knot for me.

In short, and there is more, neither slit coincides in any way except in having the characteristics of a slit, not a bullethole, and neither coincides with the nick in the knot of the tie.

In addition, there seems to be two separate slits under the collarbutton, and would require a truly magical bullet. I've marked this with green, the other ends in red. Perhaps it might have been better to trace the 8x10 print but that would have meant little without the print, I feared, so I didn't do that.

At the time Specter cooked this up, remember, he also mislocated the hole in the back of the body four inches higher than it was. Can you imagine this shirt front damage being caused by a bullet entering the back at the third thoracic vertebra?

The picture from which I made the negative enlarged in this print is actually an FBI original! One of several, including, if I can locate it now, one of the back of the shirt that reflects another FBI trick, and I say this because being the original it has the typed explanation typed on a piece of paper and they attached with a piece of clear tape. They affixed this legend upside down so that in cropping the full picture in the copy made for the Commission, it is all reversed, and one possible effect of that was to lend credence to a shot from the right. This, of course, is conjecture. But that the legend is taped on upside down isn't. But be assured that in the cropped picture published by the Commission, that it has up is actually the bottom, down.

Now, how did I get FBI originals when they never leave them out and almost never let them be examined? The story may interest you.

In C.A. 718-70 I sought copies of the affidavits used to get James Earl Ray extradicted from England - what our government used in open court only. They made their usual false claims to withhold and from a judge who had been the United States Attorney for the District I got a summary judgement. It had never happened before and it had them reeling. In those days the requests had to be directed to the Deputy A.G., then Kleindienst, and when he saw the pictures the FBI sent him he simply put them in a plain - I mean absolutely plain, no return address, no frank - brown envelope and put them in the outgoing basket. It came to me without any stamp or frank and when I got the envelope I had no idea who'd sent it. Until I opened it. Some where I still have it and the other pix are in it.

The collar picture is a much smaller print.

The picture of the tie published by the Commission is Exhibit 391, 17H27. It is, as the Archives photographer back in 1963 told me, the absolute perfection of the science required for making bad pictures. Yet if you look at it closely, you will see that the nick in the upper left extreme coincides perfectly with the apex of the V made with a cup up and a cut down with the scalpel, what not only actually happened but the Commission, and your great and good friend Specter in particular, knew very well. As I think I told you. Dulles asked Carrico what Specter avoided. Because Specter was conducting the deposition, he also heard Carrico testify twice that the hole in the President's neck was above the shirt collar. Carrico and at least one of the nurses also testified that they removed the clothing with the usual procedures, so Specter did not ask what they were. Cutting the tie off, Carrico told me, is the usual procedure, to save precious seconds.

I know I have some color pictures of the shirt but no other closeup of the front.

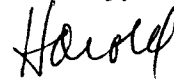
To make it more hinding, the FBI unknotted the knot and staged a picture making it appear that the hole was right in the center of the knot. This they used in CD1 as FBI Exhibit 60. They then reknotted the tie for the Commission, unknotted it when Judge Gesell ordered that a picture be taken for me, and then it somehow got reknotted in time for your panel. Dr. Baden was my source on this. Magic or something else?

There is more, and what a package it makes!. We deposed Robert Frazier in an FOIA suit, for the results of the scientific testing. We showed him the print of which I enclose the xeroxes and asked him if, more or less, I do not recall the exact words, those slits could have been made by a bullet. He refused to testify in response unless he were paid an additional sum as an expert witness. We then asked him if, when he examined the shirt, he had any questions, and he indicated he had just about the same question we'd asked him. What did he do? He asked the hair and fibres expert, Paul Stombaugh, to make an examination and report. We asked for the report and they finally came up with what quite obviously is no such thing and does not address that question in any way. Jim has all of that.

All of this is quite suitable for projections for an audience and would be very powerful, very much so with any TV or other coverage, with copies for the press.

If you don't find the print I sent you, Jim may have some extras. And if you will be at Bud's gathering next month and drive, the direct road is less than 10 minutes from here. In fact, Jim may have my negatives from when he made the prints we used in deposing Frazier.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg

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FORENSIC PATHOLOGY  
LEGAL MEDICINE

March 26, 1987

Mr. Harold Weisberg  
7627 Old Receiver Road  
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Harold:

I was sorry to learn from your letter of March 22nd, that your state of health is so poor that it would not be physically feasible for you to attend and participate in the JFK Symposium we are planning to conduct at the University of Pittsburgh in November, 1988. It is most regrettable that you are suffering so much, and that your physical activities are so restricted. Fortunately, you continue to have good cerebral circulation. Quite obviously, there is nothing wrong with your intellect.

I shall try to obtain some analysis and evaluation of the matter concerning JFK's shirt from a criminalist friend. While I certainly can follow and appreciate the significance of your reasoning, the actual analysis of this kind of evidence falls directly within the realm of criminalistics expertise. Although my memory is not anywhere near as clear and detailed as yours concerning any correspondence between us on this matter several years ago, I would assume the principal reason I did not pursue this matter further in concert with you was because I did not feel it was an item that I could address with unequivocal certainty in my capacity as a forensic pathologist.

Nevertheless, I shall see whether I can be of any assistance. If I can get some positive reaction from my criminalist colleague, I shall be happy to pursue the matter further with you.

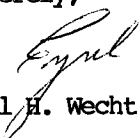
I appreciate your generosity and graciousness in offering access to your research materials and other documents. Please do not feel offended

Mr. Harold Weisberg  
Page 2  
March 26, 1987

that I have not visited you. I am still on a rigorous professional treadmill that keeps me running just about all the time. However, the next time I have occasion to travel to Washington, D.C., I shall try to tack on an extra day so that I can visit with you at your home.

With kind regards.

Sincerely,

  
Cyril H. Wecht, M.D., J.D.

CHW/mb

