

1/30/71

Dear Cyril,

Busy as you are, please stop feeling that it is necessary to apologize for being busy.

Your letter and Colton's opinion are quite valuable in a way you apparently didn't stop to think of for it means that this picture alone, to a qualified expert (any qualified expert, like those at the FBI?) means the official story must be wrong.

For the speed of the bullet to have had to be as slow as 500-700 feet, pray how could it thereafter have caused five more injuries in Connally, smashing so many bones in the process?

You perhaps now understand why I have to sue for the remaining pictures I want. But, I do have others, and time and cost have prevented my sending them to you. When I have some extra prints, I shall. You don't have to have better pictures of the tie than I have to be convinced, although better pictures may be required for doubters or publication.

With respect to the absence of spectrographic traces from the front of the shirt, tie, there remains the fact that such traces remained on the back of the shirt.

However, hoping it is not a burden to him, may I pose this added question to Colton: assuming the official fiction, that the rear, non-fatal wound was caused by a full-jacketed 0.5 bullet, or any other he selects, would the shape and characteristics of this wound of entry through the fabric have identifiable characteristics? By this I mean would a tangential shot cause an elliptical hole, would the fabric be more or less frayed at either the side toward the direction from which the shot allegedly came? What I have in mind with the last question is, under the official version, would the side of the hole toward the President's right, the side from which the shot came, normally be expected to be sharper than that on the other side, or would they tend to be identical, that tiny fragment of time not having any effect on the fabric. Also, given the official version of the murder, in the taking of that tiny bit of fabric required for mass analysis, would a careful man have taken any particular kind of sample, from any particular edge? Would he tend to avoid any special point or shape in taking his sample? Among the reasons for asking this question, as you will ultimately see, I hope Colton also, the FBI faked its Exhibit 60, the composite it made for the Commission. While it is possible the faking was carelessness, I am not inclined to believe carelessness is the norm with the FBI or that in such a case it would have been more than usually careless. They reversed the enlargement of this hole when they prepared the composite. Until I do this out and did, beyond doubt, prove it, it seemed that they used different holes in the picture and the enlargement. This is one of the things masked by the suppression of the pictures I seek and want taken.

There is an unanswered question I believe I asked you to address to Colton: if those shirt-tab holes were caused by a bullet, either entering or exiting, is it possible for there not to have been a hole through the knot of the tie? You realize there wasn't. On the very slight chance I might need such authority in court, I'd appreciate a memo on this, the earlier questions and the contents of your P.S.

By now you should be getting the drift of what I have and want unmentioned. You have to see the medical evidence I have and withheld from the Commission to really know what I really do now have.

Many thanks. I appreciate the invite on the phone. I won't abuse it.

Best,

CYRIL H. WECHT, M.D., J.D., F.C.A.P.  
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January 27, 1971

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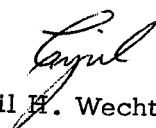
Dear Harold:

I have asked Mr. Collom to look over the questions that you posed in your letter of 21 January 1971, and I hope that he shall have time to respond to you sometime soon.

I certainly admire your tenacity and perseverance, and I only wish that I had more time to devote to this matter. Unfortunately, my schedule is so tight that it is extremely difficult for me to continue to take time for an in-depth review and evaluation of the many evidentiary questions that you raise in your interesting letters. Thus, even though I am pleased to be kept up-to-date about your different legal actions and investigative activities, it probably will not be possible for me to render the kind of ongoing consultative service that you need. If there are specific questions that can be answered simply and quickly on the basis of scientific expertise, then there is no problem. Also, I would be happy to talk with you from time to time on the phone. You can call me collect whenever there is an important pressing matter.

Good luck and best wishes.

Sincerely,

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

CHW/mg

Mr. Harold Weisberg

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P.S. Just spoke with Derrel Collom. He feels that your theory regarding the nick on the tie is a more likely explanation for the type of defect that we see than the exiting bullet theory. However, we are not able to say that the defect definitely could not have been caused by an exiting bullet.

A "slow moving bullet" would mean a bullet travelling between 500-700 feet per second. A bullet that has travelled through the body could have been slowed down to such a speed.

Inadvertent or purposeful wiping or rough handling of the tie and shirt could have resulted in the destruction or loss of spectrographically identifiable metallic traces from the bullet.