

8/12/69

Dear Dick and Gary,

I have Dick's remailing of Gary's 8/4, with interesting enclosure I will read as soon as I can. I should comment on the letter, however.

I have just completed the draft of the COUP add. It is not less than 125,000 words but will require no appendix. I think it is hot as hell, with enough to get the case reopened, if anything can, and to get all the lawyers involved disbarred, which will never happen. However, if Dad will extend some of the help that is possible of it can get commercial publication, the impossible will be less so, perhaps. Now I must read and correct and make a few additions, some of which have already occurred to me. Then Lil can retype. How I wish someone else could read it before she starts or gets very far in it!

And I feel pretty good, better than I have.

Gary is right on the neck fragments, but what he says about them and the other things on the autopsy makes me wonder if he has read PM III or forgotten it? We may know another thing about the fragments as I recall, that they total less than half a bullet.

Let me, to use words you are familiar with, get you out of a bag on the spectro and front-entrance/neck. No bullet ever hit the front of the shirt of the tie. I believe it was a scalpel. But that wound was above the shirt, I am sure. With no bullet to leave traces, what could spectro show?

Regardless of what they say about no bone being hit, this was perjury. I charge and prove it. I checked it with Cyril: fragments mean bones were hit. I am not looking for publicity on this because I would still like the book to be fresh and I see nothing to be gained by publicity.

On the lower back hit, I suggest that you study Z carefully, in slow motion and running backward, and see if you do not find a short, sharp forward motion before 313, not 321 but a number of frames. This could be accounted for by that shot. The odds are so much against what Tink postulates and I have no reason to trust any of his work.

Forman is right about the back wound and its depth, for I learned it separately from a local radiologist. That bone is the most floating one in the body. It floats forward two inches when the body is prone, as it was on the autopsy bench. There are no sitting or standing autopsies. This, to a probe, as all the doctors should have known, the natural pre-rigor mobility of that part of the body closed off entrance. ~~xxxxxxx~~

I never got around to getting copies of Itek's work because someone promised it to me and didn't get or send it. Can you save me the time by giving me their address so I can ask?

Best to both,

Gary forgot to make a copy
of this for you.

UNIVERSITY OF *Minnesota*

SCHOENER
4 AUG 69

MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455

August 4, 1969

*Hand copy
to Phil*
Dear Dick,

Thanks for your note of July 30 and its enclosures.

Some time ago I sent Harold two pages of clipping from the Miami Herald about Dempsey's involvement in that Haiti camp this past spring. You may remember—it was found when sheriff's deputies investigated the murder of a man (turned out to have been murdered during training operations). I redognized Dempsey's name on the radio reports (they gave the name Dempsey and said he was Canadian) and then it was confirmed by the newspaper. I sent the stuff to Fred or told him about it. If you don't have the clipping I can send you a xerox. When I get a chance I will see if I have any memos on him. He is interesting because along with Kolby he is still active. They were the only two non-Haitians in the camp by the time the law got there. I may be able to get some stuff on him from someone else I just thought of. Wicker's letter was interesting, but not surprising.

I have that issue of the Councilor now, and Harold just wrote both of us that he expects it. so we needn't send it.

August 5, 1969

Got your letter of Aug. 1 with Keating letter. Thanks.

On the fragments in the neck, there is one problem we mustn't forget (I wonder if "mustn't" is a real word); not only were they vague on the number and size of the fragments, but they were similarly vague on their position. Their pattern of distribution could tell us much. The fact that it is not exactly given suggests that it may include fragments higher in the neck.

On the front entrance, the spectrographic analysis of the front of the neck still bothers me, and that was one thing which I had trouble with when I argued front entrance with Tink. As for the damage on the inside, we know nothing. Saying that there was no bone damage may be a red herring since the trachea is cartilage, not bone, and much of the neck is. There was no mention of whether cartilage was damaged. Note that the descriptions given in the Parkland hospital included one ~~(which indicated cartilage damage)~~ which indicated cartilage damage. Also, if JFK didn't utter a cry it is likely to conclude that there was such damage. As for a bullet hitting the spinal column, that was suggested in Parkland also at one point, but I don't have the citation handy as I write this. Perry, I believe, suggested that the bullet had entered in the front and not exited because it had been stopped by the spinal column. Were it a dum dum or fragmenting bullet, it could have split up. The pattern of damage to the head is very suggestive of a fragmenting bullet—mercury fulminate or cor lak. It could not have been caused (referring now to right side) by an ordinary bullet from what I have learned, and the nature of the wound itself is very suggestive of an explosion on impact.

I have always felt that the first shot struck JFK in the throat from the front, and the second immediately struck from the rear in the back. Note that in the Z film he rises up in the seat after the time when we assume that the first shot was fired. I do not feel that it is possible for the front throat hit to have sent a fragment out the back, and have always assumed that the back hit was either a misfire or was lost in the body. Bear in mind another piece of evidence which bears on that point is that the Sibert and O'Neill report indicates a sharp downward path of entrance.

On the head hit, note that there is a track of damage going across the top of the cerebrum

and ending behind the eyes. Note also that there was damage behind the eyes and that the second largest fragment of bullet was found there. Note also that Boswell explained away the marking of what could have been a wound over the left eye on the autopsy face sheet by telling Tink that there was a wound: a massive wound on the inside, with the eye distended. It was on the basis of this damage that I hypothesized a double head hit, chronologically later than Tink and Ray, but without knowledge of their observations concerning the Z film, and based entirely on the damage to the brain and skull. This is why Tink was so interested in my work.

Another thing about the head hit which is interesting is Clint Hill's description of its sound. Re-read it if you haven't recently.

Also, never forget the possibility that bullets and or fragments could have dropped out. The massiveness of the head wound makes this a likelihood, and the short depth of the back wound makes it an important likelihood there. Even the throat wound is not exempt from this possibility. Then there is that object still in the skull which the panel couldn't identify.

I still don't know what to make of the alleged left temporal wound. I made note of it in my newspaper articles in 1966-67, but only to illustrate the type of questions left by the WR. The biggest possibility, it seems to me, is a fragment exit wound around the position of the hairline, especially, 66 course, since it has backed my double head hit damage theory. But a bullet could go through to the front without exiting without any stretch of the imagination, so it isn't necessary. It would explain fragments in the front of the car, if that is really where they were, however.

I mentioned Dempsy in my last letter, but haven't had time to check my files yet, except with regard to the clipping from Miami. (Wait a minute, I think that "my last letter" is the front page of this one!)

Itek is definitely out of the Nix study. I suggest that you send to Fred for a xerox of his copy. I got them to send me a xerox through a letter designed to elicit any extra copy they had or at least a xerox. I told them that Fred leaned heavily on them to challenge the WR and offered to send them a copy of his PROBE article. I knew that they couldn't resist it. But the xerox they sent me just couldn't be xeroxed again because it is too light. I could shoot myself for having procrastinated this long before ordering. You could send for their analysis of Betzner, Willis, etc. by asking for their analysis of the Kennedy assassination films and photographs. There are some of those left.

Your deal on getting photographs sounds good. Up until recently I had a way of getting them 100% free, but I may be backed down to the cost of the paper. That is a good deal, though, since I have a guy who can do blowups, etc., all free of charge.

I agree that a lot depends on the outcome of Nichols's suit, which worries me, because the other side knows that a lot depends on it. I hope that he is not careless. If Harold were with him and advising him, there would be little problem, but such is not the case, although Harold has been unselfish with his giving him of material to use. In the Shaw trial, for instance, the info for cross-examination was available, but it wasn't in people's heads and therefore wasn't available for quick use.

Well, I'd better close now. Best wishes and let me know if I can be of help.

Dary

PS: Dick, like a fool I forgot to make a carbon of this. After you have read it, could you loan it to Harold. Although it is fragmentary, perhaps he would have some further remarks to make on subjects I touch on.

PSS: With Lifton, he is apparently off the deep end and from what I have heard from many sources always has been. However, he keeps it under control when corresponding with people since he always wants info, etc. He is very careful with Paul Hoch and Hal Veeb. With me, his flying off the handle had much to do with his campaign to have Fred break off with me and to try to become the exclusive possessor of Fred's work, or at least some of it. Secondly, he let Fred on to the fact that my knowledge of the case and archives frightened him and he felt that I would eventually get to figuring what info he had. Also, pumping me on Harold seemingly got him nowhere.