

AS:mfd:27Jul64

MEMORANDUM

Rep 2
July 27, 1964

TO: Alfred Goldberg 

FROM: Alfredda Scobey

SUBJECT: Your Memorandum Concerning Allegations

I. Allegations.

In accordance with your request, may I ask the following questions?

Page 2 - The statement "there is no evidence" that shots were fired from elsewhere should, I think, be reworded. I believe some persons did mistakenly give statements that they heard shots fired from the overpass. A difference should be pointed up between no "evidence" and evidence which is disproved.

Page 5 - The Commission Finding that the bullet found on the stretcher related to Governor Connally instead of President Kennedy can be documented by testimony of a number of Parkland hospital attendants, including nurses and orderlies who moved the stretcher in question.

Page 6 - You state the evidence of the doctors at Parkland "definitely establish" that the throat wound was an exit wound. Is it not more accurate to say that the preponderance of their testimony was to the effect that it was "consistent with" an exit wound? I do not believe that you can establish by medical testimony except for some opinion testimony in connection with the autopsy (in the Parkland examination) that it was a wound of exit.

Page 15 - You accurately state that the Dallas Post Office box application did not include the name Hidell. However, the New Orleans box application did include such name and I think that should be noted at this point.

Page 16 - (Last allegation). A suspicious reader might well wonder why if "both the metal and wooden parts of the rifle were of too rough a texture to expect to find prints" there was in fact a palmprint found on the under side of the rifle. I remember this testimony and do not remember any explanation for this discrepancy. Perhaps it is due to the fact that the spot where the palmprint was found was protected by the stock of the rifle which may have slowed up a process of evaporation or something of that sort. I think, if necessary, an affidavit should be taken to explain if this is in fact true why a palmprint in this location would continue to exist where prints would continue to be evident on other parts of the rifle.

cc: Mr. Rankin, Mr. Willens, Miss Scobey, Mail Room

Page 17 - First allegation. Not only is the paraffin test unreliable, but all evidence concurs in the conclusion that a rifle would not throw particles backward toward the face as would a pistol and that therefore even if a test were reliable you would not expect to find evidence of firing on the cheek.

Page 20 - (First Finding). I have several times noticed that the emphasis implied by the statement "the average speed was 11.2 miles per hour," suggests to the reader that this car was traveling at various rates of speed which is probably circumstantially untrue. I wonder if it would not be productive to put in the report at the point cited a statement of the number of feet traveled by the presidential limousine between the first and last shots that hit together with a frame-by-frame analysis of the movie film which would show the distance traveled between each frame and thus show that the speed did not in fact vary over this number of feet by more than a few tenths of a mile if that much.

Page 25 - First allegation. The allegation that Oswald was stopped by the police as he left the building is most probably a misinterpretation of the fact that he was accosted in the lunch room before he left the building. This might be worth pointing out.

Page 25 - Second allegation. Whaley did testify he was not accurate in logging time but he specifically testified that he entered his time as 15-minute intervals and that to him the entry (12:30) meant any time between 12:30 and 12:45.

Page 27 - Last allegation. There is a question on the Department's radio log because of the fact that it was first reported by the Dallas police that Tippit did not receive special instructions and it was later reported that he received the instructions "car 78 move in." It might be well to obtain the affidavit of somebody who has actually listened to the radio log tape that this sentence is included in such a way that it would not have been dubbed in at a later time.

Page 28 - First Finding. What is your authority for this statement? Do police sometimes notify headquarters they are about to stop a suspect? Is this more a rule or an exception? Have you evidence from an unprejudiced source as to the general pattern prior to November 22d?

Page 31 - First allegation. You correctly state what jackets Oswald owned but this does not answer the allegation that he was wearing a plaid jacket. Have you any witness who says that he was wearing a plaid jacket and, if so, can you show that this is untrue? If not, would it not be better to say that there is no witness who claims that he was wearing a plaid jacket.

Page 36 - First allegation. To many readers any Russian language newspaper may be equated with "Soviet newspapers," and the statement will be misunderstood. Further, we do not know except from Oswald's own statement whether or not this was a pro-communist or non-communist paper. I think it would be worthwhile to establish what newspaper he was reading, if this is possible. It is quite likely that the newspaper in question was a weekly newspaper which was first published in San Francisco in 1950 and has continued since that time. This is the paper as to which I furnished you the name and address and it seems to be the only non-daily which would be easily available in the area and which is contained on a list available to local public libraries. I suggest that this paper and perhaps others if they turn up should be contacted by the FBI to see if Oswald was on a subscription list at the time it was known he was reading Russian language newspapers. I also suggest that your use of the term "Soviet newspapers" be explained so that the readers will understand that you mean a paper published in Russia rather than a Russian language paper.

Page 38 - Second Commission Finding. Perhaps it should be explained here that the term "Soviet Red Cross" does not mean a Red Cross organization as we understand it, but an official Soviet department.

Page 43 - In your citation on the finding relative to denying citizens the right to travel abroad might be included the U.S. Supreme Court case decided last month on the constitutional right to travel. Although this is considerably later than the facts you discuss, it shows a misinterpretation on the part of the State Department on the constitutional rights of citizens in relation to their obtention of passports under these circumstances.

Page 52 - First allegation. As I remember there is some positive testimony of eye witnesses who claim to have seen Oswald firing a rifle at a rifle range in the Dallas area. I never thought this was sufficiently cleared up. Can you give us more on it?

Page 53 - First allegation. Id.

Page 54 - Second allegation. Your conclusion sounds unduly restrictive to me. What are these records? Were there any names which were not in "metal file boxes." Can you make a more complete statement of denial?

II. Other.

1. It seems to me very important for you to be able to cite to the summary report on all of these allegations which are to be published. Would it be possible at this point to have someone go through the report putting in at the proper places statements upon which your

conclusions may be based, which statements in themselves contain footnote references to the appropriate materials?

2. It is quite possible that because there was no particular place in the report in which it seemed appropriate to place it, the lack of subject reference to Tippit's background may cause some speculation. The FBI has made a very thorough check of his background. Would it be appropriate here to frame some allegation the reference to which would indicate something of his character and previous experience?