

FEB 25 1972

2/15/72

Dear Js,

In strictest confidence, here is the transcript of my conversations with Graham. I did it from the dub made on the TC 40 with the first part and from the tape I made on it in the second. It is possible that part of the first was accidentally omitted in dubbing the first, where I stopped to splice the reel tapes. In the second, just a few seconds of the opening of the conversation, I thin. It does include all that interests me for the epilogue. I haven't had time to read and correct, as I will before I write. There will be single quotes where there should be double, other way around, errors, etc., but I think you'll get enough out of it. With but the songke cassette machine, the other being ~~at~~ the factory still, and the original of the reel-to-reel being at varying speeds, I suppose because of ~~the way the~~ tape was wound, I think, at least for now, this is better than the tape. If not, when I can, I'll dub for you. I tried both the hand and the foot switches with the Sony, and for me the foot worked better, as also id was better for me for the machine to be vertical. I seems to me that for me this is also faster than on the old, flat machine....It made the record I wanted in the parts of my greater interest, and the stuff on Rhoads is farout and a deliberate violation of their regs. Let me tell you a funny story that now makes me storry about my honesty. The first time I took the Sony with me to make notes on it years ago, I found it awkward and didn t again. However, I went to his office first. Somehow, I suppose because in checking it after I loaded it, I left it off at the mike switch only and apparetnly, brushing against someone in the elevator, it tturned on by itself. When I got home I ahd all kinds of noises and then our introduction and the whole conversation. Well, that was whenhe laid it out that they can't play foavorites, have to liye by their regulations, everyone has equal access, the whole bit. First of all, I didn t think he would turn out to be both unethical and a scoundrel. And second of all, whether or not I considered it wrong then, I now don't remember, I had no use for it, so I just erased it!...He said he'd keep in touch, but he hasn't. Best, HW

H

Graham, Fred, phone conversation 1/7/72

Wants to pick my mind about WC Report. I am on very short notice trying to pull myself together as to minor detail and I can't recall what was said about it. And that is, it had to do with President Kennedy's brace. And his Ace bandage."

"Here's why I'm asking about it. They are finally going to in the next few weeks, open up some of that material to pathologists. And they are accepting requests from pathologists who want to look at it."

W: "Are you a pathologist?"

"No, I'm not a pathologist, but they will let people like me, not like me but they will let people who are not pathologists who they will consider have a legitimate reason commission a pathologist to go and study the stuff. And they say that they don't limit to pathologists who represent people who are, who agree with the WR. In fact, Burke Marshall, who's in charge of this, for the Kennedy family, assumes that anyone who wants to look into it does not agree with the Warren Report."

"I'm not sure that he's really going to act on this. This is just what he says. He is reserving the right to approve each one on a person-to-person basis. But anyway, going back to this business, now that these people are going to see it, I've been calling ^{some of them} ~~them~~ up and asking them what they want to see. And one of these doctors, one of them... one of the things I want to see is the brace and the Ace bandage he was wearing because... that's apparently what kept him from falling over. After he was hit the first time." found no real refs to bandage. Discussion my new evidence.

"Here's what I wanna know..." I say irrelevant. "Are they relevant to anything?" W: "No."

G: "That's what I thought." W: "Now let me tell you why" and then does, using my own experience as back braces to illustrate.

"Well, now here's what the doctor told me. He said that the Ace bandage was wrapped around Kennedy's crotch... over the brace to anchor the bottom of the brace... Why would a person wear an Ace bandage - as I understand it, the Ace bandage was passed through his crotch, around a buttock, back through the crotch, around the other buttock, in a figure-8 pattern... I can see no reason for that except to anchor a corset." I explain other reason, to brace what the corset can't, the bottom of the spine, for if the corset is low enough to do this he can't sit. "I see.... Well, just imagine how tough it was walking around with an Ace bandage wrapped around your, uh, through your crotch and around your... Well, now, uh, so, what I want to get at, and I think you have virtually answered it, is whether or not there was much written about the Ace bandage... (I offer access to my Z to show how fast K did fall over)... "At this time I feel the same way that you probably assume that most people do, and that is that unless there is unless there is some glimmer of something that really sticks out, ~~stinks~~ looks like ~~stinks~~, I'm not gonna immerse myself... What should they (pathologists be looking for?... (I tell that film doesn't support WC conclusions, from completed book, not to be used)... "In what way does it not?" I tell. I then explain that present release will be very damaging to living and dead Kennedys. He asks "why" and I explain about contract "which was given to you when it was denied to me and you didn't understand it when you used it." G: "I didn't know that." Offer him corres. on this.

"And you will see that you were used, Fred, because you don't have the kind of detailed knowledge I have... They leaked to you, on the theory, when you asked for it, that you would go for the sensation, which is a perfectly normal and proper thing." G. "So what did I miss?" I explain can be used to pin all suppression on Kennedys. Tell of my suits and leaving word for him, "but you never get in to ch with me.".... "When was that?" W. "A long time ago ... "So you think the Kennedys were bamboozled by other, is that it?" W: "Absolutely." refer to contract. Tell him Marshall's name written in and that he didn't draft. G. "I'll check that..." I then offer, in confidence, to show him what is wrong with WR from the pix, X-rays. G: "You say you have the pictures and X-rays?" W: "No... I know what they show..." Offer to show him unpublished stuff in confidence, describe it as "enormous amount"... Well, now, if I'm gonna talk to, uh, when these people start going through". W: "If they do." G: "When they do. He's gonna let them see it." W: "Marshall has decided to let them see what?" G: "See, well, I don't know what. He says he has decided to open the material. Now, whether he is being selective, well, I don't know. But, uh, he, the material subject to that agreement." I explain they went to court to deny me picture clothes part. G: "Well, now, I don't know that they're gonna let anyone have pictures taken of this." I tell him "but the contract provides

that they can't be seen...." G:"Well, let me ask you this:" I interrupt him to ask him to understand that they have gone to court to deny me access to what I'd sought. He says, "...Well, I don't know that. What I can say is this: as I understand it, what they are now doing, they are letting pathologists they say, doctors, anyway, go in there and look at these things. I don't they will let 'em photograph any of the items. That I don't know. But look at them, yes. Now, when these people start going, because they are gonna start going, what should I ask them when they get through?" I say depends on who. He says, "Well, the first one's gonna be Dr. John Lattimer." W:"Oh, Jesus! Of Columbia?...Then you should be familiar with the record that he has to defend". Apologist from beginning. Offer my file. "Nothing that you're gonna get outta him that's gonna be anything but propaganda." G:"Uh, huh." W:Who are the others..." He gets list. G:"Lattimer is the only one who has been given permission. The other three who had asked for permission, and Marshall says it has not been denied, but it hasn't been granted or denied because ^{he says he} ...haven't focused his mind on it yet, are Dr. Wecht, Dr. John Nichols...Forrest Chapman, ? examiner for Wayne County, Michigan." Asks me about Wecht and Nichols when I say I don't know Chapman. Of Wecht say very good. Nichols I say off record is egomaniac. Detail on Nichols character, and big puff for Wecht, then my fear re Wecht, and I tell him of my efforts to see to it that it be denied at this time and for reasons. When I say it would be damaging to Teddy, he interrupts to ask "Why" and I say that if anyone understands it and says it destroys the Warren Report and I remind him of my offers to see my stuff in confidence, so he can understand this. G:"Well, I'm trying to figure out how seeing something like that in confidence would really, uh, help me out because it could box me in." I say this is possible, but the Times can get it from me, complete..." G:"Well, here's what's gonna happen: Lattimer's gonna see this stuff first, I don't know when the others are. He is gonna be say that it supports the conclusions." W:"Exactly!" G:"Well, let me ask you this: in talking to him, though, how can I ask him questions about it that might uncover his apologetic, un, position?" I W:"The only way I can do it without endangering myself is to let you have my correspondence with him and his earlier writings." G", No, ~~WILL~~ what I mean is what should I ask him?" I tell him he is asking me to disclose the contents of my new book. He says, "Uh, huh." I go into history of/with Times. I tell him I have to consider this history, "That's got nothing to do with you personally, but you don't control the Times."...G:"You know how these things happen. You say they know about it..." Then he says, "Well, let me tell you what I'm gonna do here, I'm gonna go ahead and pursue it. I'm in the dark about how intelligently debrief someone like Dr. Lattimer after he sees this stuff because I don't know where the residual flaws are. No, one other thing before I quit: How do you explain the four pathologists who the government put together on the panel a couple of years back. How do you explain their conclusion, as I understand it, that there's nothing in there inconsistent with the Warren Report?" I say this not their conclusion and explain in book. Remind him of proceeding in Halleck's court and he should remember. Does. I tell him such so technical that only one who has made deep study can understand. Explain again when he asks about bamboozling, that this is what would happen.

G. Now, let me ask you one other thing. When Wecht - lets say Wecht gets permission to do this, now when he does it, he may really come out and have something to say. W I ask him what can G say, that it destroys W R or doesn't. What will be consequence if he says destroys? G. No answer. So I say it will be that Kennedy family suppressed. Tell him history other side and of chapter on it. G."Well, I think what I'm gonna have to do is just wait until Wecht has a look..." ...I tell him how to reach Wecht by phone...."If I can help you in any way that won't hurt me, Fred, ~~that's~~ You see, my problem is " and I tell of printing problems. G. "Well, listen, we'll keep in touch, and, I'll got to Wecht, that's a good idea."

This from Dub. Long silence at end, but small amount time left. Next side begins in mid-sentence, me asking if he has any idea when L. Will see? "G". Yey, but that...along the line of your information that you don't want anyone to know..." He says only coincidence keyed to return to Congress. G. "...Now, I have a feeling that Lattimer was given the go-ahead for this because he is, as you say, and apologist, and you see, his reaction will get more public notice than Wecht, who comes later, or others...by the way, ~~through~~ the fellow from Kansas...what position has he taken?" I tell. "Well, look, if you know, I just, uh, ...Let's leave it this, I'll have a talk, with you, as I ~~say~~ ^{say}, you'll, in the course of things, I'm gonna write a piece about ^{some of} this, and then we'll put out heads together and see where we stand then, okay?" I tell him more he should understand about brace-bandage, and I tell him how braces are made.

Explain about straps on braces. G. "So, what do you think he had the Ace bandage on for?"
Who protect part back brace can't protect. G. "You know, I may have been reading that into
what he said. He mentioned that purpose for the brace, but I don't really think he said
it had that purpose. I think he said that's why he wanted to see the brace and see the
Ace bandage to see if he could decide." ~~W~~ I said he can't know anything about the structure
of the body, then, I tell of earlier writing. He signs off, "Thank you very much for
calling, and you'll be hearing from me."

Poss something missing at end of other side or beginning this. I phoned him back after
getting out my picture of brace and bandage.

Graham, 1/19/72

G... "that there are no sinister circumstances involving my article at all, that it's, came
out in any that it shouldn't have, it was just my shortcomings rather than any kind of design."
I suggest he was used. G. "You said that." W. "You remember, I predicted it." G. "Well, I'll
tell you what I did, now. I talked to you and I talked to a couple of others, and I tried
my best to get them to, you and and then, to... warn me against anything to look for. I
didn't want to say" W interrupts: "I told you, I said read Lattimer's writings. I had it,
come up here and get it." G. "Well, I have 'em. But I didn't want to tell you or anyone
else that he was going to see that material on Friday ~~because~~ for obvious reasons...
Because I wanted to hold that for Sunday. It was a good story, as you saw." W. "I beg your
pardon, I don't think it was a good story." G. "Well, you might not--let me restate that,
from your point of view. It was a story that was interesting to a lot of people and got a
good play and from a newsman's point of view it was a good story." W: "I hope the day will
come when you will of your own free will give me a different description of that story, Fred."
G. "WELL, Okay. Well, we'll see about that." I tell him when he address some of the
questions I asked you, such as how can pictures and X-rays show who fired the shot, then
you will begin to understand..." G. "Well, I'll tell you what I'm gonna do. I've
talked to Wacht. Of course, I've talked to him before this. ^{I'm gonna keep up with him and} And he's gonna let me know
when and if he gets permission to see this material. And we'll see who else does and
who doesn't and I'll keep up with it..." I go into contract. He admits, "Well, its possible
that back then they could have very well let that out by their own choice, and I'll tell
you how that happened. I called Rhoads, the Archivist, back in 1966... Well let me tell
you.. I call Rhoads for something, and damned if I know how damned if I know what triggered
my call to him, but when I called him he said I was trying to pump him about the terms. I
think--something had happened about that time that made it relevant, what the precise terms
of this thing were. And Rhoads said, "Mr. Graham, you are the first person to inquire since
the Freedom of Information act went into effect." He said, ~~he~~ uh, "I feel that since that
statute is in effect, I now can no longer conceal the text of this contract." So he said,
"if you want it, come get it." And I hotfooted it right over and got it.... That's my memory of
it. Now as far as this time, I'll tell you exactly what happened here. And its just one of
those things. Because of the story I had written in '66 [sic] in which I had said that five
years later non-governmental people--people not under the auspices of the government would
be permitted to see the stuff (tickler-editor) And sure enough, he was a little late, but
I guess back in, oh, I guess in early December he pulled that thing out and gave it to
me and said, "Check ^{on} this, will ya?" Well, I screwed around and didn't do anything and by
the time I called Burke Marshall's office, he was away on vacation. So, I called the
Archives and they gave me the names of the four who had applied. I believe that's how it
happened. I think they had records of that. Anyway, I think I got those four names from
them. And then as soon as Marshall hit New Haven, coming back from the Virgin Islands,
right after the first of the year, I got him on the phone the first day, and he said,
"Why, yes, as a matter of fact, I, today" about that time, "wrote a letter to Lattimer
telling him that he could go on. But I haven't made up mind ^{on} ~~about~~ the other three.
So I called Lattimer and actually got him before he got the letter. And I said, 'You're
gonna get this letter, so when you gonna go.' And he said, 'Well, I'm gonna go as soon as
I can.' So I said as soon as you find out when you let me know and I'll be there. So he
called me back later and said I'm gone on Friday and that's how it happened. That does not
seem to me to be conducive to setting anyone up. That just happened."

I asked if he saw Lattimer's letter in the March 13, 1970 Medical World News. W. "No, I don't think so." W. "Remember Lattimer said from the very beginning that he had doubt about Oswald being the assassin until he saw these pictures and X-rays?" G. "Ya." W. "You know, he couldn't tell a bigger lie. It's the very first sentence he ever wrote. And this is what I wanted you to see in his own writing. In the Journal of the American Medical Association, ~~in the~~ very first sentence. Let me refer you to what I think you can get. I can provide you with a copy. It's a remarkable thing. Now on March 13, 1970, Lattimer draws an inaccurate chart that can't be true of the single bullet theory and the picture is published and it exactly coincides with what he said he saw when he saw the pictures and X-rays. That likewise just can't be true, Fred. Now let me read you - I have it here because another reporter asked me earlier today - part of his reply to the objection of a Dr. Kupper, who means nothing to me, ... 'Oswald shows what the educated, modern-day traitorous guerrilla can do among his own people working with religious-type conviction, willing to lay down his life, but proposing to kill as many anti-Communists as possible. Oswald was devious, skilled in his business, and amazingly cool.' Now you remember that I told you that I although I am not a particular Kennedy fan, I was deeply concerned about what could happen to them, mostly because... it would also mean ... I can't regard it as totally accidental that the one man who has since your story admitted he is not qualified, and Fred, I don't think you handled that really faithfully, when I told you what the provision of the contract is. He is not in 'an allied field'... The one man who clearly ~~is~~ not qualified is the one who given exclusive access, what amounts to an ~~exclusive~~ copyright. Now you may regard that as an accident."

G. "Now wait a minute, not a copyright. Because you're presuming that none of these other people get to see the stuff. If that's true, sure." W. "Well, it really makes no difference if he chooses to write... And I think it's one of the questions I asked you, 'How come you didn't consult an independent authority?' This is one of the norms of your business it used to be my business, and I don't think the norms have changed that much since I was younger." G. "Well, I talked to Wecht." W. "After? Before you wrote the story?" G. "Yes". W. "And did you ask Wecht can pictures and X-rays show who fired the ~~single~~ bullet?" G. "Well, that's a pretty loaded question, now, Harold." W. "Well, of course it's a loaded question, because that's ~~was~~ a loaded story. You know that pictures and X-rays can't show who fired the bullet. But you were very uncritical about that. This is the current trend in reporting that makes me unhappy. It's called 'objectivity', but it really isn't. And this is what disturbs me about the whole thing. And the situation becomes one about a beating-your-wife question. Now you knew in advance... that that is a fiction that he is involved in (back brace)."

G. "Now again in your letter I think that the way I mentioned the brace to you really over stated it. He didn't talk about the brace much." I interrupt to say I referred Fred to L's earlier writings on that. G. "Well, in any event, in his talk with me very early in the game he mentioned the brace and the bandage, and then, later, in our conversation after he saw the stuff, he didn't want to talk about the brace." I ask if he heard L on CBS. Didn't. Single-bullet theory. ^{L is saying it is} I quote possible that 399 hit only Connally after seeing the picture and X-rays. Now I don't know anybody who thought it worthwhile reporting that that might have some significance. Just as I don't know a single paper in the country or a single part of the electronic media that asked... the question that you said is loaded. 'How can pictures and X-rays show who fired the shot?' Now I don't think in any honest, fair sense that's a loaded question, Fred, because I think it addresses the lead, the most important single thing, the third paragraph of your story, and this is the headline that every treatment that I have seen carried. Now I think it's the headlines and the story that was loaded, and you know, ~~I think~~ I'm being frank with you, Fred. And I think if you'll go over our conversation in advance of this, and I didn't breach your confidence, you're aware of that?" G. "Sure." W. "Even though you didn't ask me to keep confidence, I didn't breach it. I warned you about the potential of this, and yet, from my point of view, and again I'm being frank, you and the Times have done the country a lot of harm with this. Now when you got what amounted to an exclusive on it in particular, I don't know how much you've done about following it, but the wire stories were virtually word-for-word yours. And I did think it was a little bit unusual for CBS to give him a news conference Sunday night." G. "Well, he had a news conference I think at which probably several networks attended, I'm not sure." W. "It was held in the CBS Reports studio." ... Explain that I know he can't be an expert, "But I think you made a bad mistake not to do two things. First, it would have

taken you less than a half hour to read all of L's writing on the subject. And second, to follow the tradition of speaking to somebody else after the interview. After the interview. The quote you attributed to me, byt the way, was my correction to you of what Wecht told you...." Predict that if Wecht gets to see will be worse and repeat what I'd said earlier. Repeat again...G. "Well, anyway, I'll, I'll know what to look for, I'M gonna keep up with Wecht, and we'll just, y'know, see what he says." W. "What I ~~want~~^{like} to know is what you're gonna do about that third paragraph of your story which says that pictures and X-rays prove that Oswald shot the President." G. "Well, ~~he~~ says ~~it~~ says it says that." W. "I know that, but I'm asking you what, if anything, your or the Times will or in fact can do - I mean, if the Times were to print a front-page retraction tomorrow, the rest of those who subscribed to that story wouldn't. And the wire-services wouldn't." G. "Well, listen, I'm ~~in a position to~~ (pause) Obviously, I'm not and can't do anything about that. That's what the man said, I said you can always check with somebody else to see if it is possible or you can always check your own judgement. That's why I asked you the question I did, Fred, because I want you to stop and think that you knew that he was telling you what couldn't be so. " W. G. "Well, listen, let's don't beat that to death."

I explain my purposes to make complete and accurate record, hence wrote questions to him.

G "Ok, and I'll keep in touch."