September 13, 1968

Dr. Richard Bernabei
Department of Classics
Queen's University
Kingston, Ontario
Canada

Dear Doctor Bernabei:

Please allow me to thank you for your letter of September 4. Yes, Mr. Weisberg sent your letter (or a Xerox copy) to me.

The principle you set forth is entirely correct. However, the gun is such a poor shooting weapon, the telescopic sight such a poor sight and being attached by only two of the available screw holes, Mr. Oswald being such a poor shot, the target moving, etc., there seems to me a large element of chance in the bullet(s) striking the President. Even an occasional neophyte may score a bull's eye hit with a gun having a maladjusted sight.

Most of my shooting has been at 30 feet with the gun bolted to a log for rigidity. The target is adjusted, not the gun!!! The barrel of my gun has 3 inches sawed off so the speed of the bullet is the same at 30 feet as that of Mr. Oswald's at about 190 feet. This has been confirmed by chronograph.

To do the experiment you require would exceed my primitive set-up. However, I do believe ballistic tables exist which would show the rise and fall, or the trajectory curve, of a bullet weighing about 150-160 grains and with a muzzle velocity of about 2,000 feet per second.

I have had an inflammation of my right eye and have had to stay in a darkened room for the last three months since about the time Mr. Weisberg was here. However, I am now beginning to resume work but medical students have arrived! Do hope to get a suit filed against the Federal Government to study the x-rays within this month. Shall be delighted to send you a copy of the brief. Enclosed is a reprint on the late President's adrenals which may interest you.

Sincerely,

John Nichols

JN:1c
cc: Mr. Weisberg
Enclosure