CONFIDENTIAL Comments on Nichols' T-4761, filed 6/17/70 Harold Weisberg 7/10/70

Perhaps legally improved over the suit he withdrew, this new one on John's, from a hasty single reading just completed seems to me to pose the same kind of hazards to our work and basically the same legal and doctrinal liabilities.

While I can not claim expertise in the law, there seems to me to be serious flaw in the naming of the defendants, in the naming of persons rather than Departments and in the not naming of any others than the CJA and then not Navy but the Secretary of the Navy/Archives is not sued as an agency; Roads is an individual, as with Navy. It is my understanding this is enough to get the case thrown out of court. This is carried over into the body of the complaint (bottom P.1, top 2), where certain items are said to be "held by" the individuals rather than the agencies.

In the case of Navy, there is reason to believe the unsupported allegation that the Secretary of the Navy hold certain things. I have been told by the Navy and I am inclined to believe they unloaded everything. Maybe they did, maybe they didn't, but John here cites no proof, later qualifies it, and should have named an unknown respondent to whom Navy could have or did transfer that which he seeks.

P. 4, a) This reason for specifying why he wants to make the tests about the dents is spurious. First of all, he is not required to say why and he does not say he is not so required. He can, voluntarily, and should so stipulate. But if he is saying why, he should have valid, meaningful, not sourcious or frivolous reasons. "To determine whether this weapon will blast out the small dents in the ammunition is, if genuine, not a good reason. He knows it will happen, and it is caused by the ammo, not the weapon. The weapon is entirely passive in such a test, the charge in the ammo being what does it. Here he is incompetently outing what Dick and I did, but in a wrong context. Either answer, I believe, is without meaning, for hostile dents got in the casings only is amply established by what Dick and I did and Dick reported to John.

Permitting him to fire the weapon cannot "determine whether the weapon can be fired as fast as required by the Warren Commission findings" (the time is referred to with less than complete fidelity as only 5.6 seconds). It could determine how rapidly, under entirely different circumstances, he or another could on that occasion fire it, not how rapidly Oswald or another could or did on 11/22/63 or how rapidly it could prior to overhaul thereafter. This is a cheapseke trick, not serious, legimate research, and is subject to attack as such in response. It serves not legitimate, scientific purpose.

"...selects the clip onto the floor" is another unoriginality, Dick having reported what we did with this and Sylvia having made the charge. It is also meaningless, for even the use of the clip could have altered the conditions that existed 11/22/63. Moreover, the clip can hang one time and not the next. I have two clips. One Hangs, one doesn't. The one that doesn't could in an instance, whereas the one that does might not in an instance.

"Mr. Oswald's rifle..." John concudes Oswald was an assassin, with knowledge of the evidence, with which John is not afflicted, refutes. He also concudes Oswald's ownership, here and elsewhere, which is not established.

The reason for asking to examine GH44 is spurious and another ex of why there would not be the unrequred where there is a reason other then the omission. There is no requirement that the unused bullet be of the same batch as the others. P. 7 repeats that Oswald was an assassin and adds that the window was a "sniper's nest", again without reason or ppoor-orn need.

Says he was denied spectro, but not by the defendants in this action, none of whom ever had it, therefore couldn't.

(h) is entirely irrelevant because either answer is without meaning and he acknowledges an answer, that the spectro of the Walker bullet is different. The government can tee off on him on this kind of stuff in response, hurting us all.

References to the clip are un factual. It is said to have been in place when the rifle was found. Why else was the rifle found? - and is shown in pictures.
Cloygersville Express. And still entirely meaningless, just scrimshaw. Besides, and purpose he alleges is impossible. With so much of this true of so many, the hazard to us is great and the chances of getting thrown out on motion good. Which is bad.

9-10q 1-still meaningless and an impossible determination. At best the possibility can be indicated, and that he has already accomplished, as he specifies.

10 Par 6 is lifted from H III, is not in his complaint or his N O testimony. He read PM III at least at Lib Cong, if others did not inform him, he tried to get right to use from me and didn't respond to my letters in reply.

11. Significant that he didn't make request for permission to examine CE845 until after I got the receipt for it. His request is more than two months after the request for each and every other item, is then, the day before he got the rejection of the rest, for this alone, I presume his source. Cary please note.

12 reference to "curiosity seekers" at autopsy dubious and wrong and subject to strong refutation, the opposite being the case and the need.

Histological, under (b), is stupid, for it doesn't say where in neck, or that there is no record of any from front, and worse (tip 13) are described as "an integral part of this Bethesda autopsy 69-272" whereas it is not any kind of part, not having been completed until after what he has already described as 69-272" was filed. It would not take many such cases, with a skilled lawyer doing the work, to show John doesn't know what he talks about and has other than serious, scholarly purposes. With but a single histological slide said to exist and without him alleging otherwise, how can he ask for what he has not even claimed exists, what his source says doesn't exist, and now he can make claims in the plural, to determine whether these are going od entry or exit.

And the gross omission here is that the protocol makes no reference to what he seeks in the radiological report (13, bottom).

(sighs)

To me, John and those thinking they help him remain # s ear, not silken purses. And # sows' ears come from slaughterhouses.

Note that among the things John has abandoned is any quest for the spectro. The government can argue this against him, for that could contain the answers he claims to seek, as specified in his abandoned suit.

My formerly low opinion of his understanding, word and suit is not elevated by his failure to learn from the previous error, by the still-permeating dishonesty, or by the names of three lawyers signed to the complaint. All this cheappate stuff can do us no good and can do us much harm, especially when so uninhibited an ego, for so little reason, dominates.

Bud, Gary, Rev, Dick, H.R.