

Norman Hailer
142 Columbia Heights, Doorbell 4
Brooklyn, NY 11201

5/11/95

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Rd.
Frederick, MD 21702

Dear Norman,

You may remember that we met at the Georgetown University gathering Bud Fensterwald arranged, that I then offered you access to all the JFK assassination record I'd gotten from the government (you said you'd give it some thought) and that you were impressed by something Jim Meser filed in one of those many FOIA lawsuits he filed for me.

(Please excuse my typing. What ^{my age} ~~is~~ and medical problems do not account for that the typewriter can no longer be repaired locally does. I'm 82 now.)

Joseph Pinder's review of your book in Book World praises you for your extensive use of the published Warren Commission materials. When I first saw your notes, appreciations and bibliography I came to believe that you had been given the research of some one because I know the amount of work and time required to master that material. I do not suggest you were lazy. Rather that it seemed you just did not have that time, even with an excellent ~~an~~ assistant, with all else you had to do.


Of those you thank (xxi), and I'm quite familiar with the work of most of them, Jean Davison, whose book is not included in your notes, seems most likely. This belief seems to be supported by what you used of what she used. Also, she made no use of disclosed records, as you do not, while when the Posners were here Gerald spent three days selecting documents of which he wanted copies and Trisha copied hundreds of them.

Epstein got a tax break when he deposited his records at Boston College but the conditions were such several years ago when I sought access to them it was denied.

That your bibliography does not include works disagreeing with the Warren Report also took my attention. If you'd be kind enough to tell me why, I'd like to know.

If you have Harry Schiller's address I'd like to write him. Haven't seen him since he took me to lunch in L.A. just before Nyas in 1956.

Sincerely,


Harold Weisberg

5/14/95

Jeffrey Frank, Outlook
The Washington Post
1150 15 St., NW
Washington, DC 20071

Dear Jeffrey,

I finally got about a third of the number of copies of NEVER AGAIN! I can use. If you have not bought one and would like one please let me know before they are all gone.

A production man no longer with C & G forgot the index after it was set in type. It was not read and corrected. I have copies if you'd like one. (They'd not even sent me proofs of it.)

Marina King is probably unhappy about the letter I wrote her after that incredible review of ^{no} ~~a~~ bad book as I can remember that in the few ^{moments} ~~moments~~ in which it is not ^{so} ~~so~~ bad is no more than Oswald Stale. I've about 60,000 words in rough for what has the tentative title Mailer's Tales, subtitle, Of the JFK Assassination. While all of it is deeply offensive, beginning with the concept, I was really outraged by his characterization of Marina Oswald ^{as a whole}. While elsewhere I have more on it, at one point I have two

chapters. Because they make no reference to the assassination, maybe the shibboleth may be weaker with them. In that event my wife has retyped the first of them and will do the second soon. They will give you a notion of the atrocity and ^{of what} ~~of what~~ medacity, to say nothing of activated stupidity, ^{at} ~~at~~ the Post's review, supposedly read ~~the book~~ without seeing. Ditto for King if she'd like to read them.

There is more and much that is worse except in human terms and I'll be getting to what is worse soon, have to a limited degree already. But not a single reviewer has seen and commented on ^{these} ~~these~~ atrocities as Mailer tries to rescue and with Random House's money and the abdication of all responsibility by book review editors ^{help} ~~help~~ may rescue a book so ^{bad} ~~bad~~ it is praised by calling it a nothingbook.

As his own text makes clear, Mailer had no basis at all for dragging in all those sexual allegations against Marina, who is now a grandmother, from a source he knew and later says is a "prodigious liar" whose words can't be believed.

By any rational concept she also is a victim of the assassination. She was 22, with two infants, broke, with no knowledge of the language or any means of earning even a penny, yet she raised and ^{educated} ~~educated~~ two daughters. Better than most of our people without those ^{hand} ~~hand~~ handicaps do. What Mailer did is literary whoring ^{to} ~~to~~ its worst.

I can think of another offensive description of those who however and whyever help him in that.

Best,