

Mr. Stephen S. Rosenfeld  
Deputy Editorial Page Editor  
Washington Post  
1150 15 St., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20005

3/6/84

Dear Mr. Rosenfeld,

First time in my life I've heard of the return of a letter to the editor!

In your 2/23 you say, "We let your communication hang around too long. May we apologize and return it to you?" No more.

This disturbs me. Not because I expected you to publish so long a letter, as I didn't, or because I thought you'd consider it as an oped piece, which I also did not. But because you do not even want it kicking around in the Post's voluminous files on and about the JFK assassination and its investigation.

I had hoped, however, that someone there might have given what I said some thought and might have had some interest in, for example, what I've marked in the second graf. Whether or not for publication, at least for the Post's own information and understanding.

If you do not want this on file, throw it away. I have a copy and the only reason I have a copy to keep is for archival purposes. My files, which now cram most of 60 file cabinets, will become a permanent, public university archive. Of these 60 cabinets, most are once-secret government records.

I do not seek any attention for this. I report it to you to indicate not only the magnitude of the study I've made and am making still despite my advanced age and seriously impaired health but the basis for what I wrote you and the Post in general. And in all these years, no serious error has been attributed to me, in my writing (seven books included) or public appearances.

Twenty years have passed. Is it not past time for the Post to reconsider its attitude toward this truly momentous event, the official investigations of it and their consequences?

I am not a conspiracy theorist and I condemn those who are, as on your own staff George Lardner can tell you. This is not because there is no reason to believe that there was a conspiracy. Rather is it because all official investigators decided, prior to any investigation, to conclude that there had not been any conspiracy. ~~There is~~ mine a study, and I believe a large and dependable study, of how our basic institutions function in that time of great crisis and thereafter. Actually, it is, in the genuine sense, pretty establishmentarian. One direct consequence, as was never reported outside the Congressional Record, was the 1974 amending of the investigatory files exemption of FOIA and the opening of some FBI and CIA files, which certainly was a public benefit and did make some reform possible. (Efforts to retaliate have not ended and for a year or more I've been subject to a contempt citation that I believe the FBI and DJ are actually afraid to seek, although they have taken other repressive and oppressive steps that, among other things, are a threat to lawyers and the FOIA itself. Only journalistic silence makes such things possible and without expectation of journalistic silence they would not have been attempted.)

This requires no response. But I do ask you to ask yourself if there is nothing newsworthy if what I indicate in the second graf about the alleged Presidential assassin is true and was suppressed from the official "solution" to that terrible crime. I assure you it is not in any way exaggerated.

and thus we have no basis for responsible theorizing.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg  
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