

Roger Feinman
to

September 22, 1978

Mr. David Lifton
140 Beach 135th Street
Rockaway Beach, New York 11694

Dear David :

Last Saturday night (the 16th), we had a telephone conversation during which you read to me a portion of your unpublished manuscript on the Kennedy Assassination. This letter is an outgrowth of that conversation.

I have never given you permission to quote me as your authority for saying anything to the effect that CBS News secured a copy of the Parkland Hospital news conference transcript from the White House in 1967, and I have no first-hand knowledge that the same is true. On the contrary, I have repeatedly told you in our conversations during the past two years not to quote or attribute such statement to me.

Moreover, you already know that I was not employed by CBS in 1967, and I have never had any connection with the production of its assassination broadcasts. Nor have I ever been empowered to act as a CBS spokesman on this or any other matter.

I do recall that while I was working at CBS News in 1976, I was doing independent research on my own time concerning the Kennedy assassination. In the course of such research I had contacts with numerous critics of the Warren Commission. You called me from Los Angeles, having apparently learned of me and my personal interest in the assassination from the so-called "grapevine", and asked me about my knowledge concerning the transcript. I told you that I had written to the LBJ Library in Austin, Texas for a copy of the transcript (if they had one), and that as soon as I had received it I would send a copy to you, which I did.

From time to time during the past two years you have called and expressed an interest in crediting me with the discovery of the transcript, and you have asked me how it would be appropriate to do so. I have told you that you could properly and accurately say that, "Roger Feinman, a researcher (or Roger Feinman, while working at CBS News in 1976), discovered the transcript at the Johnson Library in Austin, Texas."

But the excerpt of your manuscript which you read to me is totally at variance with my understanding of what you intended to write, and with my recollection of what I told you would be both proper and accurate to write. And it reflects an on-going misunderstanding on your part which I have tried to correct. You are at liberty, of course, to pursue the matter of CBS's knowledge of this transcript with Leslie Midgley, the producer of its Women Report broadcasts of 1964, 1967 and 1975. He would be the best source. Since no one, including me, has been able to locate a tape or film of Perry's statement to the press on November 22, 1963 concerning the throat wound which appeared to him to be one of entrance, it may be inferable from that fact, and from the CBS transcript of its 1967 program, that CBS had a copy of the White House news conference transcript. But you would be seriously misguided, and also in breach of the privacy of our communications, if you quoted me as the authority for a fact that I cannot attest to, when I have asked you not to so quote me.

It is very important to all of us who are concerned with the assassination problem that your book reflect the highest standards of investigative reporting. I have learned in my own researches that part of the task is learning how to cope with off-the-record discussions and communications with discretion.

As a final means of emphasizing the points which I have raised, I might add that last year I appeared on one of Ted Gandolfo's cable TV programs and discussed the Perry news conference transcript there. I stated at that time that I had secured the transcript from the Johnson Library. I do not recall saying anything about CBS having the transcript, and I have never made any public statement to that effect before or since the Gandolfo program. This has been my posture with respect to CBS since early in 1975, and it has not changed. As you are aware, I have engaged in research concerning CBS and the assassination and contemplate a book on the subject. It may be that one day I will be able to develop the matter discussed herein to a point of certainty and in such a manner as is suitable for publication. For me, that time has not yet arrived. If you are able to verify your manuscript through other means, I wish you well.

Very truly yours,

Roger Feinman
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