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Webster Lithgow, Director
Thomas McCann & Associates
390 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Web,

I want you to know that I was -- and the feeling lingers -- very glad to have been able to work with you last week. I felt that you trusted me as an actor and that you allowed me the sense that I was valuable for more than my resemblance to Lee Harvey Oswald. It was an experience I shall remember with pride, for all of us.

I am grateful too for the good reason to learn more about Oswald's life and the events surrounding the assassination (for which I'm sure most people believe him -- and him alone -- to be responsible.) Until I was asked to play him I had not read much about him or the assassination and never really questioned the popular explanations.

The more I read, the more sinister it all seems; and, conversely, the less willing I am to believe that, if it was Oswald, he acted alone. I'm sure you are familiar with the doubts raised by the way the Dallas Police and the FBI behaved during and after that tragic week-end. But to me the larger issue is the immediate assumption of Oswald's guilt and that this hypothesis was sustained -- incredibly -- by the Police, the FBI, the press, and later imbedded in the public consciousness by the Warren Commission. Even though, under our judicial system, a man is to be presumed innocent until proven guilty.

The proof of Oswald's guilt in this case is almost entirely lacking.

I wonder then how the EDITOR in our script can be so certain about the statements he makes:

- "Lee Harvey Oswald, who assassinated President John Kennedy; ..." (Scene 1)
- "A few days later, at 1:53 pm (*) on November 22, 1963, from a warehouse window, Oswald took aim ... and killed President John F. Kennedy." (Scene 23)

(*) All other accounts say around 12:30.

page 2.

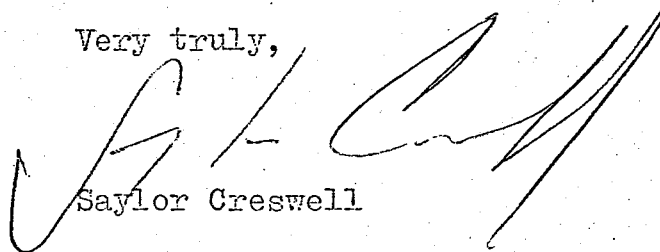
I was hired to say nothing more than what is indisputably in Oswald's diary and to act out the reconstruction of those descriptions. I have no quibble with that aspect of the production. (Except, perhaps, that apparently Oswald "appeared without warning" at the American Embassy (Sc. 14.)) Therefore any attempt to telephone ahead must have been unsuccessful. (See ACCESSORIES AFTER THE FACT by Sylvia Meagher, page 327. Thomas McCann told me that this book is in your offices.))

However (to return to my main point), I find I must say something regarding what I consider another ~~is~~ unsubstantiated 'piece' which continues, even though unwittingly, to promulgate convenient explanations but probable untruths, the going-along-with-which jeopardizes the guarantees our Society presumably offers.

Also, I still can not find any reference anywhere to anyone's belief that Oswald had ever "visited Cuba." Nor does my reading confirm the EDITOR'S statement that "(Marina)...was called in (to the FBI) for questioning..." (Scene 23.)(*)

I know you are very busy these days. I wish that we had had more time to talk about these things in Boston. Please believe that I am hoping for the best possible success for your EYEWITNESS.

Very truly,



Saylor Creswell

(*) FBI AGENTS VISITED RUTH PAINE'S HOME, WHERE MARINA WAS LIVING, ON NOV 1 + 5. BUT I DON'T BELIEVE SHE WAS ASKED TO ~~BE~~ GO TO THE F.B.I.