

12 May 1969

Dear Bob,

Thanks for your letter of the 6th. It was good to hear from you. You will be interested to know that the NY Times Magazine does not intend to print my letter, on the grounds that they will print a similar letter from Tink Thompsen. I wrote a second time, pointing out that while Tink's excellent letter demonstrates that Epstein is in error, my letter shows that the error was previously pointed out to, and admitted by, Epstein, and that he has therefore deliberately misled readers. I therefore appealed to the Times to publish at least the second paragraph of my letter; but I doubt that they will do so.

I hesitate to disillusion you any further but I would be remiss if I did not comment on Lane's book "A Citizen's Dissent." It provoked an angry editorial from The Progressive (a magazine very friendly to the WR critics), which challenged Lane's version of its "rejection" of his December 1963 article (a brief for Oswald) and published its exchange of letters with Lane of that time, which showed his account to be false. Further, two sections of his book are plagiarized from me--the critique of the Jenner broadcast is taken almost literally from my Minority of One article "Post-Assassination Credibility Chasm;" and the critique of Louis Nizer's broadcast is cribbed from an unpublished article I wrote and copy of which I gave to Lane when I heard that he was going to have a TV debate with Nizer. He wrote at that time, to thank me for letting him have this material and promised that he would "make good use of it"--by which he seems to have meant that he would plagiarize it.

But unethical behavior and plain invention and falsification unfortunately are not the exception but more like the rule in Lane's whole history as a WR critic. I could fill up several pages with chapter and verse, starting with his appropriation of an enclosure I had sent, together with a personal letter, to a member of Lane's old Citizen's Committee (1964 vintage), and his discard of the letter itself, without showing it to the person for whom it was intended. Later, his deliberate use in a public lecture of allegations (about the Stemmons Freeway sign "stress marks") which he knew had turned out to be mistaken and unfounded. When taxed with this, he said that the audience wouldn't know the difference. More recently, his widely-disseminated story of "emissaries from RFK" (conditionally "verified" by Garrison) is a cheap fabrication from beginning to end, as was also his earlier claim that RFK had sent a friendly cablegram to Trevor-Roper (which Trevor-Roper immediately told the press was untrue). So much for Lane.

Which is not to say that the press has not been exceedingly biased against WR critics (partly because of their contempt for Lane, for the Penn Jones' "Death Count," and for the rather hard-to-take personalities of certain other critics), and very unfair in coverage, almost always torturing the facts in favor of the WR. What better example is needed than the lavish "lead story" treatment of the 1968 panel report on the autopsy photos and X-rays, and then the almost total black-out of the Halleck hearing at which you and Wecht testified.

I think it is this preponderant bias against criticism of the WR, combined with the rather technical character of your paper, that has caused its non-publication. And what a great pity that is. I am glad that you have decided to make it available, and enclose a list of various individuals who would be interested. Ordinarily I would urge you not to despair; but frankly I am completely discouraged myself, about the whole WR and things in general. All the best,

Mr. Whitney Joy
5809 East Rosewood St. (He recently wrote me describing findings very
Tucson, Arizona 85711 similar to your own, on the lateral angle, etc.
He is an engineer, apparently. I do not know him
except for his recent letters.)

E.J. Epstein
295 Harvard St. (Not that he will stop acting as WR apologist; but
Cambridge, Mass. let's make him lie and evade more flagrantly)

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