

4 May 1977

Mr. Selig Adler, Editor  
Midnight  
200 Railroad Avenue  
Greenwich, Conn. 06830

Dear Mr. Adler,

I have just seen your issue of May 10th and in particular the story at the bottom of page 2 under the headline "Experts Are Sure The Murder Weapon Wasn't The One Used As Evidence".

I am startled and disturbed by the statements attributed to me in the first two columns. In the first instance, the story creates the false impression that I was interviewed by your reporter and actually uttered the statements which appear as direct quotations. In actual fact, I was never contacted by your newspaper or the author of this story, presumably J. David Truby, and never made the statements attributed to me.

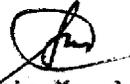
The first statement in quotation marks ("The mail order rifle Oswald ordered...was 36 inches long. The rifle the police brought out of the...Depository measured 40.2 inches long.") appears to me to be a paraphrase of statements made on page 48 of my book Accessories After the Fact but I do not believe it is an exact quotation. I would have said "The rifle Oswald allegedly ordered..." as it has never been proven to my complete satisfaction that he ordered and actually received the rifle in question.

The second statement in quotation marks ("Further, examination of the photographs easily shows that the front sight of the Oswald rifle is tapered, while the rifle removed from the building has a round front sight.") is not to be found in my book Accessories or in any other of my published writings on the JFK assassination. To the best of my knowledge, and subject to correction, I have never made such a pronouncement nor even encountered such a claim in any of the literature on the case.

I must therefore protest in the strongest terms the following elements in your story: (1) It creates the false impression that I was interviewed and made the statements ascribed to me. (2) It paraphrases material from my book but presents that material as a direct quotation, which it is not, and unfortunately does not indicate my reservations about the claim that Oswald ordered the alleged assassination weapon. (3) Most unforgivably, it attributes to me as a direct quotation a statement ~~a statement~~ which I never made, whether directly or in paraphrase.

You will oblige me by publishing a clarification and correction in your next issue. I hope to receive your early reply to this letter and your agreement to accede to my request for publication of a clarification.

Yours sincerely,

  
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