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Mr. Mark Jaffe
Simon and Schuster
One Gulf and Western Plaza
New York, New York 10023

Dear Mr. Jaffe,

Crossfile on Kennedy: Manuscript
by Jim Marrs

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to review this manuscript. While it is one of the most handsomely presented manuscripts I have seen, my review was handicapped by three deficiencies:

- (1) The lack of pagination;
- (2) The lack of precise citations of sources; and
- (3) The absence of a number of key chapters, especially the one on the Warren Commission, which are still to be completed.

My detailed commentary, which is enclosed, merely refers to chapter and sub-chapter headings. Most of the assertions relating to evidence are familiar to me and do not require checking of sources; others, which are new, cannot be checked in the absence of footnotes.

I have been asked to deal with two fundamental elements of the manuscript--(1) accuracy, and (2) new information.

Accuracy The accuracy of the manuscript in dealing with a vast body of complex evidence is nearly impeccable. There are only a few factual errors of a marginal nature. The author is honest in his recounting of the evidence, always including the official version as well as the position of the critics and researchers. I would give the author very high marks for his prodigious knowledge of the case at all its stages of investigation, and of the immense body of literature which has been published. The very broad scope of the material has compelled a degree of condensation which some may consider facile and simplistic; but in my opinion the author has set out the essential facts in each category of evidence.

New Information There are two categories of new information. The first concerns the familiar evidence, to which in many instances the author has added some additional and new material which increases its force. The second is wholly new information, either anecdotal (not sworn testimony, not in full transcript, and not subject to cross-examination) or documentary (the "enhanced photo of grassy knoll gunman", which is treated very briefly in the text but which requires, for credibility, a very detailed account—perhaps in a separate appendix—of every stage of work on the photograph, the credentials of those who worked on it, and the reservations if any of equivalent experts).

In other words, there are in the manuscript numerous new allegations, but they are subject to tests of credibility which they may not pass. Here I have in mind the allegations of Richard Case Nagell, Charles V. Harrison, Beverly Oliver, and the like.

The strongest chapters are those based on sworn testimony, official documents, and forensic evidence.

General Evaluation The manuscript is, in my opinion, a fine and admirable work. Inevitably it covers much familiar ground but often with new insight or new data. It achieves a splendid historical perspective by its account of the origin, development, and ultimate role of the federal agencies and of organized crime. The author has achieved a high degree of objectivity and while he does not mask his personal views his tone is reasonable and avoids polemics and sarcasm.

My hesitation, if any, arises from the fact that the chapters on the Warren Commission, the Garrison investigation, and the author's conclusions are not yet available. I expect that they will be of the same quality as the available chapters.

Enclosed with this letter are some detailed comments on the manuscript. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Meagher

Enclosure

Comments on the manuscript
Crossfire on Kennedy
by Jim Marrs

The Metercade

The author asserts that Mrs. Kennedy picked up a piece of her husband's skull and that it remained in her hand until a Parkland Hospital nurse took it and disposed of it. This is wholly new information which needs to be documented as to source and reliability.

The same is true of the new information concerning White House photographer Thomas Atkins and his film of the metercade. Where does this information originate? Is it reliable? What is on the film?

The Crowd

Julia Mercer's story was greatly elaborated and embellished during the Garrison investigation and should be regarded with some scepticism in light of the dubious and impeachable "witnesses" produced by the New Orleans District Attorney.

The Babushka Lady

The Beverly Oliver allegations--especially that Jack Ruby introduced her to Lee Oswald of the CIA--seem to me to lack credibility. It is difficult to credit her story without verbatim transcripts of the interviews with her or other material which would enable a judgment of her veracity and mental status.

The so-called "Ruby" in front of the Depository was merely a look-alike. I have seen the photograph and feel sure that he was not Ruby.

The Texas School Book Depository

The man in the doorway was definitely Billy Levelady. One only has to look at the Altgens photo and a photo of Levelady to remove all doubt of the man's identity. Why continue to flog this dead horse? The only significance of the photo is that it exposes the shoddiness of the investigation conducted by the FBI and the Warren Commission.

Concerning the alleged presence of Oswald on the sixth floor, the author does not deal with the perjured testimony of Charles Givens, on which the Warren Commission relied, and which it used to incriminate Oswald. See "The Strange Testimony of Charles Givens", an article reprinted in the anthology The Assassinations.

Baker's encounter with Oswald: Howard Roffman, in his book Presumed Guilty, demonstrates conclusively that Oswald came up from the first floor and not down from the sixth floor. See Roffman's chapter 8, "The Alibi".

The Badge Man

If this enhanced photo is to appear on the cover—and it is certainly dramatic—more detailed information would be helpful. What are the credentials of Gary Mack and Jack White? Have opinions been obtained from other photographic experts, such as Robert Groden? What were the exact procedures by which the enhanced photo was produced? An appendix with full technical information would confer greater credibility on this photo.

A Grassy Knoll Witness

The story told by Ed Hoffman is new and important information. His story, and his persistent efforts to bring it to the attention of the authorities, ring true.

Oswald's Travel to Helsinki

As the author shows, the Warren Commission deliberately and knowingly falsified the date of Oswald's departure from London. I hope that in his chapter on the Warren Commission the author will point to this falsification, which is only one example of the mutilation of evidence by the Commission itself.

Oswald's "Dishonorable" Discharge from the Marines

His discharge was actually "Unsatisfactory" (see Warren Report, page 710).

A Whirlwind Romance

The author does not mention the persistent and almost desperate efforts made by the State Department to persuade the Immigration and Naturalization Service to admit Marina Oswald to the United States.

544 Camp Street

The author mentions, as if it were established fact, that Oswald was "seen in the company of FBI agents" at the Crescent City Garage. This allegation comes from Thomas Alba, who did not mention it in his Warren Commission testimony but only years later. It should therefore be viewed with reserve.

Mobsters

The author writes that "Hoffa's disappearance is grim evidence that neither Teamster officials, the crime syndicate nor the U.S. Government wanted him to regain control of this nation's mightiest union." That inadvertently suggests that all three were involved in his disappearance. The sentence should be revised.

Oswald's 1962 Income Tax Return

Oswald's income tax return for 1962 was withheld, but some years ago it was released to Marina Oswald Porter, since it was a joint return. This is reported in the recent book Reasonable Doubt by Henry Hurt. Hurt states, on page 406 of his book, that "The most startling aspect of the return is that, on its surface, it appears to give complete support to the proposition that Oswald had no unexplained sources of income."

Minex Camera

This is important new information and an additional indication of the FBI's manipulation and falsification of evidence.

Oswald in Mexico City

Here the author omits positive evidence of Oswald's presence in Mexico City and at the Cuban Embassy: A passport photo of Oswald on the application for a visa, his hotel registration, artifacts which he brought back which clearly came from Mexico such as a bracelet for his wife and a TV program listing for Mexican TV stations.

The author himself seems to acknowledge that Oswald did travel to Mexico City when he deals with Albert Osborne, a passenger on the same bus that Oswald apparently rode.

There is important new information in this chapter, relating to the arrests and intimidation of Silvia Duran at the behest of the CIA.

Robert Merrow's Theory

The author quotes from Merrow's published work. Merrow is widely regarded as a disinformation agent and has no credibility whatever in the view of many researchers.

Stemens Freeway Sign

The author asserts that the Stemens Freeway sign disappeared on the day of the assassination. I question this.

Ernest Hudson, groundskeeper and eyewitness to the assassination, in his Warren Commission testimony (Vol. VII pages 562-563), said that the sign had been shifted from its place after the assassination and removed completely by early 1965.

If the author has evidence that it was removed on November 22nd, he should cite the source of his information.

The Black Car Chase

The author states that Tom Tilson was never contacted by either the Warren Commission or the House Select Committee on Assassinations. In fact, Tilson was interviewed by an investigator for the House Select Committee, as indicated in its Volume XII pages 15-16.

The Murder of Tippit

This is a particularly good chapter and focuses attention on a largely-ignored area of the whole case. Hurt in Reasonable Doubt provides new information about Tippit's personal life which reinforces the author's suggestion that his murder may have been unconnected with the assassination.

The Arrest of Oswald

The author states that Oswald was formally charged with the murder of the President well after midnight. There is good reason to question whether the so-called arraignment ever took place, as I discussed in my book Accessories After the Fact, pages 305-309.

Moreover, I later obtained from the Archives WC document 5 page 400, an FBI report on information obtained from the office of Captain Fritz on November 25th, 1963. The last paragraph of that document states:

No arraignment on the murder charges in connection with the death of President Kennedy was held inasmuch as such arraignment was not necessary in view of the previous charges filed against Oswald (in the Tippit murder) and for which he was arraigned.

The weight of the evidence points to massive perjury and falsification by the Dallas Police and the Warren Commission.

Two Hospitals

It is true that Dr. Humes and Dr. Boswell were clinical pathologists. But Dr. Pierre Finck was a forensic pathologist, although mainly in an administrative capacity in which he reviewed autopsies performed by other forensic pathologists, many of which involved gunshot wounds.

Seymour Weitzman

This witness testified by deposition, not by affidavit.

The House Committee on Assassinations

This is an excellent chapter.
