

December 15, 1967

Dear Ray,

I talked with the letters to the editor editor at the Post yesterday and finally persuaded her to print at least part of my letter. We dropped out the corrections but she did agree to print the part where I point out that you were the first to discover the shoulder sag at Z238 and that Sylvia was the first to discover that all the Secret Service agents accompanied the motorcade to the hospital.

Your particular letter has caused me more concern and regret than any other letter that I've received. Mainly because I have for so long admired the integrity and carefulness of your work. And also because you charge me with a particularly serious crime for an academic -- plagiarism. I hope by now you have had a chance to see the book I sent you, and I hope even more that you agree that attribution there was correct and sufficient. This was one of the things I was interested in getting Sylvia's views on last August when I showed her the mss. She suggested some changes with respect to Eostein but felt (and still does, she tells me) that all the other attributions were correct. I hope you do too. With respect to the Post; from the perspective of hindsight I think it would have been good to make a fuss at the time with respect to the attribution question. The contract gave the Post editorial control; they could have overridden me, but at least I could have told you now that I made a fuss about it. I didn't and thus must bear the responsibility for the injury you feel you have suffered. I have done what I can to redress that injury, not only by writing the letter but by pushing for its insertion, and at least succeeded in getting the thing published. I ask that you forgive this injury and believe me when I tell you that I in no way intended to slight your contribution to my own research. I've done everything I can do to redress the injury.

I need your help.

Some weeks ago Life's editor and counsel told the Post that the Post should stay away from me, as Life was going to destroy my reputation and credibility. Life has now started to ~~do~~ just that. They have brought suit against me, Bernard Geis Associates, and Random House charging that their copyright on the Zapruder film was infringed by the sketches in Six Seconds. More than this, under the libel immunity granted legal comola: they have made the false and damaging charge that I stole frames of the Zapruder film. They have told our attorneys that their intent is to suppress the book. And if they win a summary judgement in January they can do just this; they are asking a court to enjoin distribution of the book and to get all copies "impounded and destroyed". I am legally liable without limit for legal expenses and damages which arise out of publication of the book and thus am legally responsible for Random House's lawyers, Geis's lawyers, and my own. In short, Life is trying to ruin me.

For a month now I've been urging that Life release at least certain critical frames for general distribution: Z237-240 and 312-316. This public appeal probably has a lot to do with the suit. This is the first time that one of the large media has moved to try to break or ruin a private individual or a book critical of the Report. They ~~are~~ me and Kern about the Z238 hit and I recall their agreement with you. And I have not seen but heard of a letter you wrote Life complaining about their treatment of the hit on the Governor. In court we must argue that Life's possession of the film has served to conceal its true significance. If we win we may be able to get the film sprung, which is what all of us have been working on for so long. Could you write to me [3. Bernard Geis Assoc., 130 East 56th Street, NY, NY 10022 -- I have to be in NY all of next week] and tell me of your recollection of your meetings with Life personnel and send Xerox's of any correspondence you might have? Or in addition could you give us any information which might be

helpful in fighting Life? For example you may know of places where unauthorized copies of the Zapruder film were published, or you may know things that various people at Life may have said which could be of help. There is no doubt about it. The chips are down and Life is trying to ruin me; I need your help and the help of all the critics. I hope you'll feel yourself able to give it.

With best regards,

*Trink*