

Mr. Mike Stanke
136 S. 15th St.,
La Crosse, WI 54601

8/22/92

Dear Mike Stanke,

When I saw the floppy-disk mailing container I wonder who thought I could use a floppy disk. I have no computer. Then when I saw the post card, and they are rather nice ones, I was more baffled, until I saw your letter.

Which I do appreciate very much as I do the fine gesture of the check.

We did have a nice day on our 50th anniversary. I've thought about it much. To me the real wonder is that I made it at all.

You refer to all the books you read and the documentaries you've seen and that others were not interested in getting those documents released. I add that not a single one of the authors of those books has spent any time in those records to which I give unsupervised access to all who write on the subject. A wealthy one and a stinker who had his own preconception had a student going over them looking for what fortified his preconception, that the mafia did it. The others who do no real research and pursue their own would-be Perry Mason careers take freely what is available and corrupt that with their theories which are as unproven and usually as untenable. Which is to say that most of the books will mislead and misinform you. Virtually nobody has the knowledge to read the more persuasive ones critically and to test them against what is known of the fact of the assassination. So they can be and some are persuasive. So, I encourage you to take the time to read everything as critically as you can.

To answer your question, what do I think happened, I have to begin with an explanation: the crime itself was never officially investigated and was never intended to be. There thus are no leads for private persons to follow. Without question the crime was the end product of a conspiracy. But there are no leads to any assassins.

In about September, 1966, when I'd finished my second book, I thought that by thinking in cui bono terms we might get somewhere but it was not long before I realized that there are so many who could have seen benefit from the change there is no way of pinpointing, even of identifying all of them. We can eliminate that way but no more. So, I have no answer.

My work grew into a study of how the basic institutions of our society worked or failed to work in terms of the assassinations.

It is obvious they all failed and continue to fail. And look at the difference in our country, really in the entire world. The assassination did turn the world around.

I do very much appreciate your kind words and thoughtfulness and thank you for them.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg