

March 9, 1995

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
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Dear Mr. Weisberg,

I have just completed "Oswald in New Orleans" and again I think you have done a credible job of reporting.

As you stated in your letter of 2/11/95, I am a retired SA of the FBI. As I have told you in prior letters, I had no interest in the JFK Assassination until about three years ago. This was about six months before the Oliver Stone movie came out and I noticed that there was a lot of criticism of the film before it was released! Even though I do not care for Oliver Stone because of what I consider his anti-American views, I found the criticism strange. Even George Bush, while in Japan, was criticizing the film! Why? About this time, I heard a radio talk show, on KCMO in Kansas City, MO., where they were talking about the Kennedy assassination. The guest was attorney, Todd Neilson, and the things I heard discussed made me stop and wonder. Later, Neilson started his own newsletter, and as a bonus, he furnished a sixty minute tape of the JFK Assassination. At that time I thought it was pretty good, and I made several copies to give to my friends. This is the tape I sent to you only for the reason that this was instrumental in shaping my thinking. I did not intend it to be a vehicle of knowledge that would be superior to yours. In fact, I am in awe of your determination and persistence in reaseaching this matter.

I have told several of my friends that I have read your books and I am impressed with your dogged detrmination and perservance. I have also told them that if I was a criminal, I would not want you to be after me!

Enclosed is a copy of an article re Jim Hosty that appeared in the Wall Street Journal. As I mentioned before, I know Hosty, only casually, and we have never had a face to face discussion about JFK. The closest we came to this was in the fall of 1992, when Hosty gave a talk to our office (those who were interested) about the assassination. Out of a group of 100, more or less, I was the only one who challenged him about the Warren Commission Report. At that time, I was only beginning to get started in my research and as such, I was not equipped to confront him. He was considered to be the authoity in the matter. Later, one of the support personnel asked me why I was so hard on him. I replied that I was only seeking the truth.

The questions I asked him in front of the group was why, if Oswald fired the fatal shot from behind and above, was JFK's brain an blood splattered on the motorcycle

officer that was behind and to the left rear of the limousine? The answer I got did not make any sense to me. I also asked him about the conclusion of the HSCA's conclusion about the fact that they said there was a conspiracy. Both answers were wishy washy.

Hosty now winters in Florida, and returns to the Kansas City area during the summer. I will have a chance to talk to him in a few months. Is there any question(s) that I should ask him to get to the main issues? During Hosty's talk, I was the only one taking notes. At this point in time, I cannot locate them. If I do, I will transcribe them as best I can and forward same to you.

Last night, my wife asked me where we would take a vacation this year. She said that she would like to go to the east coast, us around Boston, New England, etc. If we do, we might swing around the Washington D. C. area, and if we do, I would consider it an honor to meet you. This is all tentative, and if we do get out that way, I will notify you in advance.

A few comments about your books in reference to the FBI. As I have told you, I served 32 years before my retirement in 1993. I never specifically worked the JFK case, in any way, such as covering leads that may have been generated by another field office. I entered on duty in July, 1961, so I was a two year experienced SA in the field at the time of the assassination. Like many others, I remember exactly where I was when I heard about the shooting. I was with other Agents in the process of arresting a pimp and his girl friend (as a material witness) in the north side of Chicago. We were entering the hotel when someone yelled, "Did you hear, Kennedy has been shot!" I thought this was in jest and remarked to another Agent, the next thing he will say is that Santa Claus is coming to town!" After we made the arrests, we were transporting the individuals to the cars outside, when a yellow cab, came to a halt, outside the building, and yelled to another cab, "Did you hear, the president has been shot!" By that time, I was starting to believe. By the time we got the prisoner downtown, we found out the the Federal Court system had shut down, and we ended up taking the prisoners to the Cook County Court house for their arraignment. That was quite a day.

I am not acquainted with a former Agent George Stevens. Like you say, he was before my time. Even if he was in my time, there were 8 - 9 thousand Agents when I came on duty, I only knew a small part of them. I do not know a Del Bryce. I will make an effort to determine if they are still alive.

Going back to previous letters, I mentioned to you that the only Agent I knew personally that was a part of the JFK investigation was my roommate, Pete Logan. (Lansing P. Logan). No, he was not the one who spoke Spanish. Pete was a young Agent at the time, about 27-28 years old. He seems to cling to the WC Report, and has not said anything to me that would indicate he had any other knowledge. Like I said before, he admitted that it could be said they conducted the investigation with blinders on. I visited him personally in 1993, and gave him many of the books I read up until that time. I had not yet read any of your books at that time. Pete's wife doesn't think Oswald did it either.

I recall hearing about you through other means. It seem like I saw you on a video, perhaps on a Mark Lane video. What is your opinon about Mark Lane and his research/books?

Speaking of other researchers, are you acquainted with Dr. John Coleman? He has a monolog out where he names names as far as the persons responsible. He is the author of the World in Review newsletter.

I have read all of your books, but could you summarize the assassination as to who you think was behind it, who did the shooting, how many sniper positions, and why was it covered up?

Again, I have read over 30 books before I read yours, and I wish I read yours first so I wouldn't have to have read so many of the others. This is like a quest for knowledge for me, and a little bit of embarassment for the Bureau. Thank you for your previous responses to my letters. Hope to meet you someday.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Bates".

Robert J. Bates
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