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Westerville, Ohio 43081-2716  
May 9, 1992

Harrison Edward Livingstone  
Author  
Carroll & Graf Publishers  
260 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10001

Dear Mr. Livingstone:

I am in the process of finishing the reading of your book, High Treason 2 on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. I have also read High Treason, and over a dozen other books on the subject as well as having seen "JFK" at the movie theater. I would like to comment on your book and theses, in the hope that it might spark some rethinking on your part, and solely for the purpose of being constructive. I also hope that some of the information that I have may be of help to you in that it may be information that you have not heard before.

First, allow me to thank you for what I feel are the positive accomplishments of High Treason 2. Your interviews of key witnesses often asked the questions that were not asked before, confronting those witnesses with the obvious questions that never seemed to have been asked. I also commend you for spending time with Harold Weisberg, the original researcher, who truly is ~~the one unimpeachable source in terms of doing what he did for~~ purely unselfish reasons. In April I spent 3½ hours with Harold and his wife in his home near Frederick, and took him to dinner at his favorite Korean restaurant. Not only am I impressed with his steadfast refusal to speculate on who killed the President, but also his courage in taking on the government, with the help of Jim Lesar, who I also spent time with, and publishing his books himself when no one else would.

I must say, however, that there are parts of your book which are disturbing to me. I am, in a sense, somewhat jealous, or envious of anyone who has written a book, as I am sure there is one in me somewhere waiting to come out on some subject. But you have written at least two, and I would have expected more care in the facts that you state as true, and expect more from your editors and proof readers (since Carroll & Graf seem to be in the JFK assassination business, e. g. Act of Treason, Crossfire, etc.).

For instance, on page 567 of High Treason 2, you state that "Thomas Jefferson suffered the slings and arrows of the press due to his longtime love affair with his slave and mistress,

Sally NEMMINGS." (emphasis mine) Please note that the lady's name was Sally HEMINGS (see John Chester Miller, The Wolf By the Ears, The Free Press, 1977, a division of MacMimllan). There is no proof (as Harold would say) whatsoever that Jefferson would have had an affair with his slave; indeed, he didn't even agree with slavery at all. Hemings most likely had an affair (one-sided though it was) with Jefferson's father-in-law, from which Jefferson obtained her as property. Perhaps Miller is too friendly to be objective about Jefferson, as you are about Kennedy to be objective about him. Because Kennedy had many affairs is not reason to see him killed; nor is it reason to excuse away immoral behavior, especially when that person is President of the United States, and can easily be said to have selfishly risked compromising national security with his tryst with Judith Campbell Exner. Kennedy, incidentally, had a great reputation as a womanizer; Jefferson did not.

I am greatly disturbed that this has been turned into a conservative vs. liberal issue, as if your politics should determine what actually happened on November 22, 1963. I am as equally disgusted with the sarcastic potshots by National Review and Human Events as I am with the gushings of Oliver Stone, and others such as yourself that indicate because Kennedy was so charismatic, it (his death) must have had more meaning than to be shot by accident, or otherwise, by some lucky-shot nut. Those of us (and I include you and most theorists in this) who truly wish to find out what really happened should pool our resources and work together. I wonder if sometimes the poor organization in writing, so evident in High Treason, and the repeating of already known material, such as in Crenshaw's Conspiracy of Silence, are the result of trying to get the book out before something we can prove comes out, or it becomes less sell-able when the initial furor of Stone's movie dies down.

Don't we owe it to Harold Weisberg, who painstakingly blazed the trail at his own expense, armed with incredible ethics for our time, to sacrifice our own prejudices and admirations to try to arrive at the truth? Don't we owe it to ourselves, to the truth?

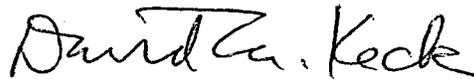
I don't know who shot Kennedy. I try to keep an open mind. Harold says all the conspiracy books (except maybe Sylvia Meagher's) are, as he says "b-----." But I find, if I can get one angle that I didn't think of before from any book, it is worth it. Certainly there are things I benefitted from your book. But we can do without the Kennedy gushings. It obfuscates the issue. It just doesn't help.

Having said all that, there is some information I thought you might like to know. One Michael Hurwitz, who had first buying rights on Ruby's gun (which he obviously didn't exercise) and the window frame of the sniper's nest, has made some interesting interviews of people in Dallas heretofore un-interviewed, and has taped them. Harold was quite interested in this when I told him. Michael also owns two Mannlicher-Carcanos within five serial numbers of "Oswald's" that he purchased from the assistant to Jesse Curry.

Hurwitz, incidentally, is owner of "Manuscript Investments" and is speaking at my request at Dublin High School on May 18, 1992 on the subject of the assassination. He works out of Reynoldsburg, Ohio, a suburb of Columbus, Ohio.

To conclude, I thank you for your time. I would like a response to my comments, if at all possible. I found it interesting that, in all his piousness, Mark Lane didn't have the time of day for me, not even five minutes, when I was in Washington in April. I have enclosed a book plate for your dated signature, if you would, hoping I haven't bent your nose too much. I do thank you for your contributions for all of us who wish we had the time, and seek only the truth of what happened and wherever that leads us in relation to our government. The possibilities are frightening to me. Thanks again for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,



David M. Keck  
Summer School Administrator  
History Teacher  
Dublin High School

Enclosures (2)