

October 7, 1981

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

It's been almost a year since I last wrote to you. I've been meaning to write for some time, but you know how you put things off and say, "I'll do it next week" until before you know it, it's been much longer than you ever meant for it to be. I've continued to put aside articles for you whenever I've seen them, but the articles are less frequent than they once were. Most of the material I've gathered are book reviews or letters to the editors about those books.

I have several items on BEST EVIDENCE by David Lifton. I read the book and while it read okay, it's far fetched and fairly ridiculous. Some of the material on the autopsy is interesting and the fact that he includes the actual procedure for an autopsy in general, helps one to understand things they might not ordinarily understand. I don't know what to make of all the bits about switching the body from plane to plane or the section on the two hearses and the chase by the military escort, but I just couldn't buy his theory. I do have a question in regard to Lifton's description of the autopsy. According to him, his big discovery was that surgery was performed on the head and brain area of the President's body -- something he says has never been pointed out before and therefore proves tampering during the autopsy. In your research, have you ever found anything to support his contention?

I also read the Michael Eddowes book which simply takes the second Oswald theory and blows it all out of proportion. Of course, he harped on it, until they did exhume Oswald's grave only to find Oswald was indeed buried there. It was just another one of those items that allow people to say, "Look at those nuts. It was Oswald's body, now maybe these conspiracy theorists will shut up". In fact, that was almost exactly what Tom Snyder said on the TOMORROW show the night after the exhumation. These people disregard all the important evidence and use this garbage to discredit the hard facts.

Another review included is a brief Village Voice review of a book by Dr. John Lattimer called, KENNEDY AND LINCOLN: Medical And Ballistic Comparisons of Their Assassinations. Now, there's never been any question about Lattimer's lack of authority on the JFK killing, but now he's an "expert" on Lincoln's assassination (I wonder if he was able to disprove any conspiracy in Lincoln's murder -- if anyone could do it, he could). Now, why there is a need for a comparison of the two killings, I don't know. I didn't read the book, but perhaps he was able to connect the two killings. This book reminds me of a song released in 1966 or so called HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF. The song which was a hit, was a reading of such facts as: Kennedy has 7 letters and so does the name Lincoln, Lincoln's secretary's name was Kennedy and Kennedy's was Lincoln, Both had Vice President's named Johnson, Both of their assassins used their middle names, Booth shot Lincoln in a theatre and ran to a warehouse while Oswald shot Kennedy from a warehouse and ran to a theatre -- all this with the strains of Glory, Glory Hallelujah!

Also here is an interesting article on Victor Lessiovski (from NEWSWEEK) believed to be a Soviet double agent. There's an interesting reference to the JFK assassination and Oswald.

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I've also included the TIME article on David Lifton's book with Letters to the Editor that followed. The only review of G. Robert Blakey's book comes from NEWSDAY. I don't know if the NY Times ignored it or if I missed the review. I didn't read the book, but I did see Blakey on the TOMORROW show with Dick Cavett as a substitute host. He showed the Zapruder film along with the "soundtrack" from the open mike on the motorcycle. The sound only made the film that much more grisly. And I'm sure more people stayed up to see the film than to listen to Blakey. For some reason, people are fascinated by seeing these gruesome things. Just like yesterday, Dan Rather couldn't wait to get the footage of the Sadat killing. I'm sure he was disappointed that there was no actual footage of Sadat getting it. Nonetheless, Blakey was interesting, but his pinning everything on the Mafia seems somewhat simplistic and easy. If his book is based on the findings of the committee he was on, I can't see wasting the time reading it.

I've also included an article from Gallery by Richard Russell. I tried to read it, but couldn't get past the first page. It's about a man named Richard Nagell. He claims Nagell was supposed to kill Oswald before the assassination of the President. I have never heard about Nagell before. Do you know anything about him?

Finally, I have the articles on the exhuming of Oswald's body, which I'm sure you have read elsewhere. I'm also sure that the results were no surprise to you. I'm interested in what you have been doing the past year. I trust you are well despite your past bout of phlebitis. A friend of mine from Cincinnati, Rozann Stayden, mentioned she had visited you and I was glad to hear that you are well and still working. I can't tell you just how much I admire you for your determination and stick-it-to-itiveness. As upset as I get by all these others printing their foolishness, it makes me feel better to know you are still at work. I assume the Reagan administration won't make things any easier with their clamping down of the FOIA and their increasing pressure on Congress to make things more lenient for the C.I.A. and F.B.I. I guess these things go in cycles and we'll just have to wait for the next Watergate-like fiasco to open things up again (but that's just a matter of time).

I'm continuing my own scriptwriting. I was out in L.A. this summer scouting the terrain so to speak and I anticipate making a move to the west coast after the 1st of the year. It seems that's where one must be to get anywhere in film or television, so that's where I am headed.

I hope to hear from you sometime when you get a moment to write. In the meantime, I'll save anything from the papers or magazines that looks interesting. It may take a while (not necessarily on purpose) before I send them, but I will send them. I haven't forgotten you and I think about you and the valuable work you're doing often. Best to you and your wife.

Sincerely,

