

Ms. Oprah Winfrey
c/o Channel 7
Washington, DC

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Dear Ms. Winfrey,

Your trust and that of your listeners was imposed upon to promote a disgustingly bad work of fiction with the false title, Oswald Talked.

Ray and Mary La Fontaine are subject-matter ignoramuses when it comes to the JFK assassination. They exploit and commercialize it knowing Nothing about the established fact and caring less about it.

Oswald did not talk, and John Elrod refused to say what they say he said, as the transcript of their effort to get him to say it on Hard Copy leaves without question. And not any of those records they claim ^{were} brought to light by their supposed "Silicon Valley cavalry" was brought to light by him or was even not publicly available before he and they got off on their exploitation and commercialization. *They also do not mean or say what the La Fontaines represent.*

Please excuse my typing. I'm 83, in impaired health, and the typing can be no better. I wrote the first book on the Warren Commission and the JFK assassination ^{published} and eight since then, four are of the Whitewash series. To this day not one of those of whom I have been so critical has written or phoned to claim I was unfair or inaccurate in writing of him. And the FBI told a federal court in one of my dozen lawsuits under the Freedom of Information Act ^{that I know more about the JFK assassination} than anyone working for the FBI. I obtained a third of a million pages that had been withheld by those lawsuits. I make them freely available to everyone working in the field and once the courts require the information be disclosed to me they are not only public, they are also in the FBI and the CIA public reading rooms.

I go into this to accredit myself. I do not seek an appearance on your show. Travel is dangerous for me and I do not travel.

When it was no longer safe for me to use the stairs to our basement where I have that third of a million pages of records in something like 60 file cabinets, which means when I no longer had access to that treasure of official fact others can and do use, I decided to spend what time remains to me to perfect the record of that great tragedy for our history. In form this is a series of book-length manuscripts exposing both side of the controversy. I am alone in the middle and I do welcome that loneliness! *I alone also stick to the official White House.*

At the time you had Marina Oswald Porter and Mary La Fontaine on your show

I had only one copy of the retyped rough draft, ^{of that manuscript} ~~one~~ copy with typing better than this. I'd loaned it out. It has just been returned. If you have the interest in the assassination you reflected on that show I'll be glad to have a xerox of that manuscript and its documentation made for you.

Almost without exception ^{too} the books that can be and are published ^{on the assassinations} are not based on fact and are based on theories which are not factual in any case. Some are by those who intend well and some are commercializations and exploitations, as that of the La Fontaines is without possibility of any question. I have prepared for our history a series of such manuscripts and they will be deposited in a fine college where they will be a permanent public archive. No quid pro quo.

If you read the La Fontaine fiction or had one of your staff do that for you, there was no need for any snitch on the arrest the La Fontaines exaggerate beyond reason. It was only five weapons that were in the car in which a man did get messed up a bit. Oswald not only did not and could not have reported on that, it was in fact caused when the driver ran a red light and was speeding and when the police chased him he hit a utility pole. The story in the Dallas Morning News before the La Fontaines turned their wild imaginations loose is quite clear on this. Besides which Oswald and Elrod were never in the same cell.

There is no innocence for the La Fontaines on this. There is for poor Marina, who wants so to clear their names for her daughters and her grandchildren she grabs at what seems to have promise. She trusts people, too, having nothing to hide.

The La Fontaines got the Washington Post to publish some of their concoction. I wrote a long critical comment and refutation of it for the Post, much too long for publication, intending that my copy be a record for history. The Post asked if they could send it to the La Fontaines and not only said they could, I also said that if they disputed any of it I would respond in writing. I never heard from the La Fontaines. ^{Jim Leary etc.} They a friend who was a Dallas detective, the one handcuffed to Oswald when Ruby shot him, sent me a sketch of the jail cells. That proved that what the La Fontaines said about what they made up had happened was impossible. The Post sent that to them and they were silent about it, ^{too.} They do not use it in their book. They never changed what they had made up to eliminate what this proved to be impossible that they'd written for the Post.

They also did not come to look at any of the records I make available to all.

But if they had they'd not have written their fictional book that has no connection with the assassination at all. What you and Marina both missed is that

rather than learn anything about the assassination itself they merely assume that the official assassination mythology is true. Their entire fabrication is based on the false assumption that Oswald was a police snitch. While that is false, if Oswald is not regarded as the assassin who cares if he had been a snitch?

Marina is a trusting person. She made the mistake of trusting Norman Mailer and that scavenger of years of practise and experience. Harry Schiller. Mailer's abuse of her in his mistitled book, Oswald's Tale, which it isn't, is so terribly bad and openly dishonest it is hard to believe. I also have a lengthy manuscript on Mailer's "Pathetic Tales" Not yet retyped but away being retyped. If how he ~~abused~~ abused her interests you, my wife retyped that separately and I ^{can} send you a copy. I gave Marina one. †

You were quite persuasive on that show in your statement that you are not satisfied with the official "solution." Perhaps that made it easier to take advantage of you and ^{of} your trust. That is not uncommon. I also enclose what I am sending to Ed Smith who was lied to by A & E, their P.R. people and by Judith Campbell Exner.

If I have any information you want I'll be glad to make it available to anyone who may want to look at it or to the degree possible for me now I'll make and send you copies.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg
† Harold Weisberg