

Rt. 8, Frederick, Md.

10/15/69

Dear Mark,

I hope you will understand that I cannot really afford to take the time from work for correspondence that largely duplicates what I have already published.

Of the events you plan to treat, I think you will find more than you need in these books, with relatively little by way of solving "the mystery of Hiddell".

The paraffin test is not affirmatively conclusive but can be negatively. Nitrate deposits can come from a variety of sources. Therefore, the presence of nitrate traces on Oswald's hands is not proof he fired a weapon. However, the absence of any traces on his cheek is pretty conclusive proof he did not fire a rifle.

I have no reason not to believe the official account, that Oswald did have the Hiddell papers.

It is not possible to answer this question, "What are your feelings about the Sibert-O'Neill report on the autopsy of President Kennedy" without writing a book. First of all, despite the contrary propaganda by those not as concerned with precision and truth as they might be, this is not a "report on the autopsy" in the sense used. It is, rather, the report of the agents whose apparent assignment was to keep an eye on the Secret Service agents also there. It goes into much more than the autopsy. It is not generally understood chiefly because those who first used it in public had nothing to do with finding it, therefore, had no logical train they were pursuing. They used it as sensation, which it is, but in so doing, they also misused it. To give you a short answer, it is a very important document and much of what it says is true. It is also in some respect erroneous and incomplete.

WHITEWASH was the first book. There was tremendous reluctance among publishers to touch the subject except as support for the official position. In publishing it myself I incurred the enmity of those who didn't want the subject opened. In making a success of a non-commercial book, I angered publishers, into whose domain I trespassed. Dell rejected my first book three times, then reprinted it, coming to me for it. They also rejected the second, and again came to me for it after I published it.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Mark Houpt
307 S. Delaware St.
Mt. Gilead, Ohio 43338
10/14/69

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 8
Fredrick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

I wrote to you in late September to explain my interest in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. I wish to thank you for your return letter of October 3. Your answers will be very helpful.

I've chosen the following list of events for my American History thesis.

1. The assassination of President Kennedy.
2. Oswald's alleged route to his apartment and from the apartment to the scene of the Tippit murder.
3. The Tippit Murder.
4. The Texas theatre & Oswalds arrest.
5. Oswald in the hands of the Dallas Police.
 - A. interrogations
 - B. police actions
 - C. police line-ups
 - D. Oswald's abused rights
 - E. the Mystery of Hidell
6. Oswald's Murder

I have yet to chose the tittle. I've deecided to look into these subjects seeking the truth about what happened and offering a hypothesis for each of the subjects listed above. I haven't deecided just how much the Warren Report and it's pravariations will be intered in my report. I feel that if I inter the Report in the thesis I'll waist valuable space making verbal outlashes at its fraudulent nature.

I have more questions to ask you about the events in Dallas.

1. In your return letter to me you stated, "My feeling is that, had there been a trial, the paraffin test would have been accepted as competent proof Oswald had not fired a rifle. It is proof of just this." The paraffin test were, however, possitive on Oswald's hands. Do you feel this would indicate that he did shoot and kill Officer Tippit? If not, how can the possitive reations be explained?
2. Do you believe that Oswald did, at the time of his arrest, have a picture of himself on a selective service card which also held the signiture of Alex J. Hidell?
3. What are your feeling about the Sibert-O'Neill report on the autopsy of President Kennedy?

I will highly regard your suggestion to use only the Whitewash series and Accessories After the Fact as sources for my thesis. I was thinking of using Six Seconds In Dallas as a possible reference. But, If your book proves that the that the first shot came at 202 this shots Thompson's theory right in the heart.

Could you possibly explain to me why two of your books could not be printed?

Thank you for your tremendous help.

Yours truly,
Mark Houpt
Mark Houpt