

Ms. Jodi Allen
Editor, Outlook
The Washington Post
1150 15 St., NW
Washington, DC 20071

8/18/94

Dear Ms. Allen,

When I saw and then read the La Fontaine piece published on the seventh I was aghast. I was also quite surprised first that the Post had published it and given it so much space and then that it had not done the obvious checking. I do not recall the Post ever going with a single-source piece on anything controversial and this piece has only a single source who is both an alcoholic and a man with a five-item rap sheet.

I enclose what I wrote about it rather in haste, despite the time that has passed, not in the expectation you would welcome some kind of correction but to inform you. Not that I would object if you were to edit and publish it.

As Jeffrey ^{Frank} Allen of your staff, whom I met once, and a number of others on the Post can tell you, I'm 81, lucky to survive as many serious health problems as I have and, because I have ^{extensive} knowledge of the JFK assassination and its investigations, some years ago decided to use what time remains for me ⁱⁿ by perfecting the record for history to the degree possible for me.

I realize how this can seem and that you do not know me.

In one of the dozen or so FOIA lawsuits by means of which I obtained about a third of a million pages of previously-withheld assassination records, CA 75-226, the Department of Justice told that court that I know more about the JFK assassination and its investigations than anyone working for the FBI.

(That was its successful defense against my undenied allegations of perjury by FBI SA John ^Wilty! I made and proved such allegations in a number of these cases, making myself subject to a perjury charge if I lied. In this case in which I was the plaintiff, its exact words are, "plaintiff could make such claims ad infinitum since he is perhaps more familiar with events surrounding the investigation of President Kennedy's assassination than anyone now employed by the F.B.I." (What a defense of proven perjury!)

Mine is the only writing on these subjects that is 100% factual, with no conspiracy theories or non-conspiracies of any kind. I've published seven books on the JFK assassination (the delayed eighth is now due to be published in March, 1995) ^{and} (not a single person of the very large number I used in that writing has written or phoned me to complain about my treatment of him or to allege error.

Currently this includes Gerald Posner and his publisher, Random House, in response to my Case Open. It says and proves that his is a fraudulent formula book to exploit and commercialize that great national tragedy and the market he thought he saw for that approach as a response to the Oliver ^Stone movie JFK. For which, as George Lardner re-

ported ~~an~~ an Outlook article, I began the criticism of it because ^{S/one} ~~he~~ described it as non-fiction, as it is not. I proposed it to ^{Lurbin or} ~~him~~ and provided him with his information for it.

Posner and RH, it ~~may~~ interest you to know, when confronted with my book that refers to him as, among other things, a shyster, a plagiarist and so dedicated a liar he has trouble telling the truth even by accident, ~~they~~ were mute in the New York litigation in which they made it relevant. I am told that in his Doubleday/Anchor reprint that has not yet reached Frederick, he fails to refute what Case Open says.

While my work is on the assassinations and their official investigations, it is also a study of how our basic institutions worked in those times of great stress and since then. The media is one of our basic institutions and the Post is a major part of the major media, deservedly.

Because I believe that the Post's record on these subjects, while anything but what I would have expected in my reporting days of the dim past and not at all what as a former reporter, Senate investigator and editor and wartime intelligence analyst, ~~is~~ interested in publishing the hard fact on these subjects with a very few exceptions for all of which I believe I was responsible, is the best in the major media, I regret what you have just done very much.

In addition to misinforming and misleading your readers, ^{who} ~~which~~ include our most important decision-makers, you have launched a new assassination mythology when there was no shortage of them to do this misleading and misinforming.

And given it such exceptional attention at that. If it was not also syndicated.

Please excuse me for not rewriting and editing and for the fact that my wife's typing now ^{can} ~~is~~ be no better. She is impaired by an accident and I believe it would be better if I devoted that time to other work I've begun in this effort to perfect the record for history.

However, if you have any questions, I will be glad to respond to them.

The Post is, of course, a very large institution. But I cannot help noting that it found all this space for such simply awful stuff that is not even reasonable while not finding the book that should start one of the major book-publishing scandals of years worth any mention at all.

This is to say that the outdated policy of the past is the dead hand still on today's reporting, regardless of the national need of the people to know so that for all the odds against it representative society might function as it should, by the people being informed about major issues.

Respectfully, *Harold Weisberg*

Sorry my typing cannot be any better. We are both Harold Weisberg past 80 and I am limited in what I can do. I must keep my legs elevated when I type.