

Jim Lesar
918 F St., NW #509
Washington, DC 20004

10/20/94

Dear Jim,

Good news about your eyes! Right on! If not about the lack of recognition of what comes on us gradually, so gradually it takes something dramatic to get through to us. Hope the swollen hand gets back to normal soon.

I did not "attack" you. I did criticize and they are not identical. You say, "please advise which (conspiracy) theory I believe in. I'm having trouble figuring it out." You should have trouble because you've gone for most of them in recent years. Shall we go back to Rickey White? And I think your memory has failed you on the La Fontaine piece. Which according to Jeff Morley you read and encouraged the Post to print. So you had read it and you did it was important.

Please thank Hougan for his letter, which had no return address. He is wrong on Russell not having gone public. He did twice, once involuntarily by a leak to Epstein, probably by Liebeler, and once on Cox TV when he knew his time was close, several years after our relationship. He did that understatedly because, as I'd have thought Hougan would perceive, once they signed the report they were hung. They'd have been a laughington, disagreeing ~~with~~ with what they'd agreed with and signed and one would assume read before signing.

Do you know anyone at The Washington Monthly? I phoned there months ago and was told none of the editors was in but one would phoned me. None did.

I've written Woodsley saying, among other things, that in lying to Houston and in withholding from me what was within my request for records on me and then disclosing them ^{publicly} as they have done they have violated my rights under the Privacy Act and in this contrived to defame me. I ask for belated full compliance. Anna Marie told me there are some nasty memos on me now in the Archives. I'd like to get them all and file under the Privacy Act. Asking that it be attached to each such memo. Make an interesting situation?

Best,

Harold

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October 13, 1994

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, MD 21701

Dear Harold:

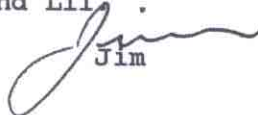
Enclosed is a copy of Jim Hougan's letter to me giving his reaction to your piece on Senator Russell, which includes a couple of practical suggestions you may wish to follow up.

On other matters, thank you for your concern about my eyes. I've now had two laser surgery operations, a different procedure on each eye to cope with different problems, and gradually the sight in both eyes has improved markedly, so much so that I can now read with my right eye closed, albeit with some difficulty, whereas six weeks ago the vision in my left eye was 20/400, and a month ago it was still only 20/200. I have more eye surgery tomorrow. Other than the eye problem, I seem to be doing pretty well, the only exception being a severely strained wrist and hand as a result of having attempted a running, diving, one-hand fingertip pushup during a soccer game. In other words, I went to play soccer with Jennifer and a male friend of hers at night on an unlighted soccer field and chasing after the ball on wet grass suddenly slipped, falling not on my ass but on my right hand. It is no longer three times the size of my right hand but tends to puff up at night and still hurts some when I am not on Naprosyn.

As for your health, I'm distressed to learn about the lack of normal circulation in your legs, but marvel that you still keep going.

As to your recent letter on the LaFontaines' piece, I have no direct recollection as to what I said to you about its coming appearance, except that I'm nearly sure that I said not that it "would" be important, but that it might be. Not having seen it, I had no basis for reaching a definite conclusion. As for your attack on me as a conspiracy theorist, please advise me which theory I believe in. I'm having trouble figuring it out.

Best regards to you and Lil.


Jim

October 2, 1994

To: Jim Lesar

From: Jim Hougan

Dear Jim:

I read Harold Weisberg's article about the way in which the Warren Commission's staff concealed the incredulity of Senators Russell and Cooper concerning the Magic Bullet Theory. It's an important article because, as he says, it would appear to prove that at least two members of the Warren Commission were persuaded that the Kennedy assassination proceeded from a conspiracy.

Unfortunately, neither Senator seems ever to have said that in a public way, and their diffidence on such an important matter is genuinely perplexing. Having said that, I think that Weisberg's argument is a convincing one, and that J. Lee Rankin has a great deal for which one hopes that he will someday have to answer.

As for publication of the article, I don't think that Weisberg will be able to place it---certainly it won't find a home in a general interest, national magazine (such as Harper's). It is, after all, a long, analytical article on an unpopular subject, and there's nothing in it that will make news. (This is a practical observation; in my view, Weisberg's findings are unquestionably newsworthy).

What I'd recommend, therefore, is that Weisberg arrange for the article to be published in a respectable "alternative" publication (such as the Chicago Reader---my first choice because it specializes in long pieces on outré subjects). I'm sure that Weisberg would rather have the article appear in the Atlantic or the New Republic, but I don't see that happening.

In addition, I think that Weisberg should turn this same material into an Op-Ed piece, and lobby to have it published in the New York Times (L.A. Times, Baltimore Sun, etc.) in late

November. In this way, by taking two routes to a similar end, he can have his cake and eat it, too.

All that aside, what this points up is the need for a serious, parapolitical studies journal---a 'zine---whose interests would include (but would not be confined to) the JFK assassination. To my mind, this is one of the most important things that the AARC could accomplish.

A handwritten signature or set of initials, possibly 'JF', written in black ink. The signature is stylized with a vertical line on the left and a horizontal line extending to the right.