

4/19/93

Mark A. Oakes
10346 Briar Hollow Rd. #6
St. Louis, MO 63146

Dear Mark Oakes,

I appreciate your thoughtfulness in sending me the video you prepared about former FBI SA Robert M. Barrett and the enclosed letter from former SA Ronert Gemberling.

Also, my book on the King assassination to which you refer as my "new" book is in fact a quality paperback edition of the 1971 work.

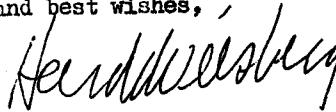
When the VCR with our previous TV needed repair we replaced the TV and the VCR with a set on which the VCR is built in. I have not taken the time to learn ~~wh~~ how it all works. I've been hoping that some young person with this knowledge and the interest would be here to demystify it for me and that we'd look at your VCR but that has not happened. When someone is here who can do that I may well be too preoccupied with other matters that mean more to me at this stage of my life.

Whether that man was Barret or who it was is not as much of interest to me now as it was 25 years ago. My own work has taken me in other directions and to the degree possible for me I want to continue with it in the time that remains for me.

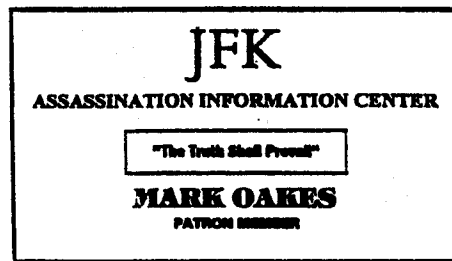
I am glad to have your cassette for archival purposes whether or not I look at it in the near future.

I think that just interviewing Gemberling was a very good thing.

Thanks and best wishes,



Harold Weisberg



4/9/93

DEAR MR. WEISBERG,

BEST WISHES AND CONGRATULATION ON YOUR NEW BOOK, ON MARTIN L. KING. AND PERFECT TIMING! ENCLOSED, YOU WILL FIND MY NEW VIDEO ABOUT ROBERT M. BARRETT. YOU WERE THE FIRST TO WRITE ABOUT BARRETT AND I GAVE YOU CREDIT IN THE VIDEO. PLEASE WATCH THIS AND KEEP WATCHING AFTER THE CREDITS, AND IF YOU WOULD LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU THINK (EITHER WAY), I WOULD APPRECIATE IT. AT LEAST I THINK YOU WILL ENJOY THE ROBERT GEMBERLING INTERVIEW AND THIS VIDEO IS ABOUT FACTS, SO I HOPE YOU WILL SMILE ABOUT THAT.

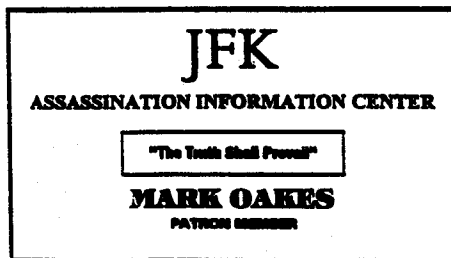
PLEASE TAKE CARE, THANKS AGAIN FOR EVERYTHING YOU HAVE DONE, WE LOVE YOU!!

Best Regards,

P.S. MY REBUTTAL REMARKS ARE ON GEMBERLING'S RETRACTION LETTER.

Mark A. Oaker
10346 BRIAR HOLLOW DR.
ST. LOUIS, MO. Apt. 1
63146
(314) 991-4415

JFK 



4/9/93

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Mark A. Oakes
10346 BRIAR HOLLOW DR.
ST. LOUIS, MO. Apt. C
63146
(314) 991-4415

ROBERT P. GEMBERLING

7106 Clemson Drive
Dallas, Texas 75214
(214) 348-3906

November 11, 1992

Mr. Mark A. Oakes,
10346 Briar Hollow Drive, Apt. #6,
St. Louis, Missouri, 63146.

Dear Mark:

You will recall videotaping an interview with me concerning the investigation of the assassination of JFK on 10/20/92 at Dallas, and furnishing me a copy of same.

Prior to the taping you showed me a photograph of 3 men and identified them as Deputy Sheriff E. R. "Buddy" Walthers, with the hat, Dallas Patrolman Joe Foster, in uniform, and an unidentified man, bending down, believed to be an unidentified FBI Agent. Such photograph was alleged to have been taken on 11/22/63. You indicated to me, before the taping, that you had made contact with retired FBI Agent Robert M. Barrett, who had confirmed that the unidentified man in the photograph was him.

During the taping I stated that the unidentified individual looked like Mr. Barrett, but I could not be positive of such identification. I also identified the alleged handwritten confirmation from Mr. Barrett as looking like his handwriting. We both know that suggesting who the unidentified individual is violates the most basic elementary interview technique in seeking a legitimate identification of a photograph.

My purpose in writing is to inform you that I have determined such unidentified individual is not (emphasis on the "not") Mr. Barrett. I also want to give you the basis for my determination:

1. Mr. Barrett has advised me that such unidentified individual in the photograph is not him, and he states he sent you a note, signed by him, to that effect. NOT TRUE!

2. I have reviewed the list of FBI Agents in Dallas on 11/22/63, and Mr. Barrett is the only one who even slightly resembles the unidentified individual. "BUDDY WALTHERS KNEW HIM PER AL MADDEX"

3. My wife, who has known Mr. Barrett for many years, has said from the outset she did not believe the unidentified individual was Mr. Barrett, because of the shape of the individual's nose in the photograph. (MAYBE)

4. Mr. Barrett has informed me he was not in the grassy area in the vicinity of the assassination site at any time on the afternoon of 11/22/63, although he was in the Texas School Book Depository sometime after 1:00 PM. Would He Admit It?

Mr. Mark A. Oakes

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11/11/92

5. Mr. Barrett states he had more hair in 1963 than does the unidentified individual in the photograph. *HOOPER LOVED Hippies!*

6. In 11/63 Mr. Barrett wore a large Notre Dame class ring on his left hand, with a dark ruby stone. The photograph showing the unidentified man's left hand does not reveal any ring on his left hand. *HE ALSO WAS MARRIED IN 1963. HE WORE Them Both?*

7. You will note the photograph showing the unidentified man's left hand reveals the cuff of his left shirt sleeve protruding below his coat sleeve. Mr. Barrett has stated he never wore long sleeve shirts, and was wearing a dark sport coat, light colored slacks, and was wearing glasses on 11/22/63. The unidentified individual in the photograph appears to have been wearing a suit. *Buddy WACHERS wore long sleeves, the FBI don't?*

I wanted you to have the foregoing details to augment the videotaped interview with me. I would also appreciate your sending me a copy of the piece of paper you exhibited to me that allegedly contained Mr. Barrett's handwriting and signature. Hopefully, I can obtain the authenticity of same.

In view of the apparent extreme interest in identifying the unidentified individual in the photograph, I can only assure you it was not an FBI Agent and suggest that it might have been a plain clothes Deputy Sheriff or Dallas policeman. It could have also been a member of the media or an ordinary citizen. With respect to the latter, the thought occurred to me that it might be Wayne Hartman, mentioned on pages 42 and 43 of my 9/19/64 report, a copy of which you provided me, but it is my understanding you have already checked that out. *CITIZEN'S ARE ALWAYS ALLOWED AT A HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION!!*

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Barrett for his information, because I am sure he would like to set the record straight that he is not the unidentified individual in the photograph.

Good luck and best wishes. I look forward to hearing from you and receiving a copy of the piece of paper allegedly containing Mr. Barrett's handwriting and signature. *I DIDN'T WRITE THE NOTE, HE DID!!*

Sincerely,

Robert P. Gemberling
Robert P. Gemberling

cc: Mr. Robert M. Barrett
rpg