27 January 1998

Harold Weisberg
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Dear Harold:

I received your letter yesterday and got quite a startle from it. To set the scene, I normally receive your letters in a windowed envelope which is addressed with your own script. The letter was in a different (non-windowed envelope) and the first document that I saw was the "To whom it may concern" letter. What immediately came to mind was that you had passed away! My wife said that I had the look of extreme sadness and despair. The next document behind that note was the packaging address followed by your letter. It took me about five minutes to comprehend that your letter was written after the "To whom..." letter and that you were in fact still in this world. As the blood returned to my head, I felt a great relief at not having lost an acquaintance of an individual I have come to respect and admire. Keep breathing! I'll miss you when you should pass.

Coincident with receiving your note, I had just finished the retyping of your last manuscript the night before and was preparing to format it. Having a sense of urgency at my near loss, I quickly formatted it and printed out a copy to catch any formatting errors and to do a quick scan for obvious mistakes. After adding a Table of contents and a Sources page, I printed out the document and bundled it chapter by chapter with the original manuscript. Instead of paginating the retyped manuscript using chapter designations I used the conventional pagination scheme. Again, as you will notice, I have taken a few small liberties in rearranging a few of your words in lines where your sentence structure made it difficult for the reader to capture your thought . Please understand, that I am not attempting to put words in your pen/mouth. Rather I try to preserve the context and words while facilitating a reader's ability to understand what message is being conveyed. I am your retypist, hopefully your informed apprentice, and ally.

A few comments to consider:

1. The title is rather long: What do you think of "PUBLISHER"S ERRATA or When Did You Stop Shooting Your President?
2. The book has at least three themes: a) Donahue's/Menninger's/St. Martin's false case against Hickey; b) intellectual plagiarism and dishonesty; 3) how come primary sources, available to assassination "investigators," are avoided when offering "solutions" to the JFK assassination?
3. The manuscript needs to decide whether it is going to be a chapter by chapter critique of *Mortal Error* or a broadside against Donahue/Menninger/St. Martin's. If it is to be a critique, consider starting with the "Publisher's Note" and attack his "facts" and suppositions. If it is a critique of the attempt to besmirch Hickey, focus on the strategy used in *Mortal Error* to make that happen. Either way is possible with the materials you have but one thrust must be subordinate to the other.

Donahue Trap

4. Consider using primary sources in your references to facts and your books when they are the source of new insights or perspectives. Otherwise you fall into the same elephant trap you have set for Donahue/Menninger.
5. The Jim Bishop aside that dominates Chapter 8 might serve your purposes () better if it were a narrative in an appendix which supplements the incredibility of Donahue's/Menninger's source materials.
6. Consider bringing in more of the material you hint at in the manuscript which challenges Donahue's/Menninger's thesis. This would strengthen a case for deliberate dishonesty and massive misdirection by the authors and the publisher.
7. If you corralled the attacks on Donahue's personal credibility to the Forward, the remainder of the manuscript would not be overshadowed by your disdain for all the parties involved on foisting this travesty of historical misdirection on the public.

I was able to pick up a copy of Donahue's/Menninger's hardback book off the remainder table (if that give's you any clue about its value. I checked all your references against it and adjusted some of the pages citations. In addition, you will note, I added a Table of Contents and a Sources page which is not complete. I needed newspaper references for the *Sun*, *Post*, and Israeli newspapers.

I would be willing to retype *Waketh the Watchman* if it requires retyping. In the meantime, I would like to read your other manuscripts including the ones that Dr. McKnight is retyping. As you can see I attempt to turn around your manuscripts as quickly as possible. I enjoy your insight and respect your knowledge of the Kennedy assassination investigation minutia. I must say I really get a kick out of your anecdotes about assassination "investigator's" foibles.

I hope this letter finds you in good health.

Your assassination investigation apprentice,

Clay Ogilvie

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P.S. Please note your original manuscript has been returned with the retyped hard copy of your manuscript. I hope sending this other than the USPS got it to you faster.