Dear Mr. Slaton, 8/23/91

Thanks for your interesting letter. The books herewith.

That Clay Shaw's father and Lee Harvey Oswald's grandfather were members of the same rural church at the same time is interesting. It is one of life's many coincidences.

You misunderstood what I said about conspiracy theories and there is no contradiction between what I said and proving that there had been a conspiracy.

What I said about the theories is that they are all unproven, almost all not really reasonable, and that they deceive and mislead the people. Because the crime was never really investigated officially means that there are no real leads to be followed. But those advancing these conspiracy theories pretend that they solve the crime. Fof the most part the books advancing theories as reality present no evidence to prove that there in fact had been a conspiracy.

Proving that there was a conspiracy is a matter of fact, not of theory, and I use the official evidence to prove that there was a conspiracy.

However, I do not theorize who did it.

I hope this clarifies it for you.

Sincerely,

Harold

Claude B. Slaton
Box 8341
Clinton, LA 70722
August 19, 1991

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 12, Old Receiver Road
Frederick, MD 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

Thank you very much for talking with me over the phone a couple of weeks ago. I have received your order blank in the mail, and I have enclosed my check for $22.45 for the two books "Photographic Whitewash" and "Post Mortem". Please send them to me as soon as you can.

Mr. Weisberg, I want you to know how much I respect your work concerning the assassination. It has taken a lot of courage and commitment on the part of you and, I'm sure, your wife to continue your work in the face of so many obstacles.

If you would be willing to bear with me for a few minutes, I would like to tell you about my interest in the assassination. I was just past my 11th birthday when it happened and it made a tremendous impression on me. Later I could not understand why there was so much mystery surrounding the circumstances of the assassination and I have spent a good bit of my spare time over the years studying it. It was your book "Whitewash I" that first made me realize that there were serious doubts about what really happened in Dallas and why.

I did not become really serious about it until several months ago when two events happened. First, Oliver Stone's crews filmed part of his new movie on the assassination here in Clinton. This brought out several of the people who had testified at the Garrison trial, who began telling their stories to people all over again.

Second, coincidentally, I was working on the publication of a book of church minutes at the time. I have published several books of records of interest to genealogists and historian over the last 10 years, and about 1 1/2 years ago I was proud to get the opportunity of transcribing the minutes of an old Baptist church about 30 miles north of here (in Mississippi) called Ebenezer Baptist Church. Founded in 1806, it is one of the oldest continuously-operating churches of any denomination in Miss. An additional incentive is that one of my ancestors, Solomon Morgan, was a member of the church in 1809.

While transcribing these minutes, I came across the name of a member "Horatio N. Shaw". At the time I had a fleeting thought that there might be a connection between this Shaw and Clay Shaw, who I knew had been born in Kentwood, La., not far from here, but I told myself, "Naaa...couldn't be" and I passed over it. Shortly after that I was loaned a book of the genealogy of certain families of Amite County, Miss., and East Feliciana Parish, La., and to my amazement the author demonstrated that this Horatio N. Shaw was Clay Shaw's father! This caused me to be curious about Horatio, and while reading the minutes I was further shocked to see that one of the fellow church members of the Shaws was a John Oswald and his wife.

Well, it turns out that John Oswald had a son Robert Edward Lee Oswald whose son was Lee Harvey Oswald. What this means is that Clay Shaw's father and Lee Harvey Oswald's grandfather were members of the same church at the same time. To me, this put an interesting new slant on the relationship between Lee Oswald and Clay Shaw as propounded by Jim Garrison.

I am on vacation from my job for the next two weeks, and I am planning to do research to write an article concerning Shaw, Oswald, and a reinterview of the Garrison witnesses here in Clinton. Several have indicated that if they are physically able they will be glad to do taped interviews with me.

Mr. Weisberg, I confess I was a little confused by what you said on the phone, and if you would be willing to expand a little bit, I sure would appreciate it. You said you had absolutely no belief in the "conspiracy theories" and yet the ad you sent me states that in your book "Post Mortem" there are documents "proving a conspiracy". I probably misunderstood you, and I probably will find out more about your views after I get your books, but I hope you understand why I am curious.

In any case, again thanks for your work over the years, and please know that there are many, many people out here who appreciate your work and who believe that the truth of what happened and why is something the world should know.

Sincerely

Claude B. Slaton

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