

Södertälje 13 dec 1991

Dear Harold,

Hopefully both you and your wife are in good shape. Christmas is here once again and Oliver Stone's movie will have its first-night showing by the time you get this card. A few weeks ago I heard a psychologist on CNN talk about "mythical reality" in connection with Stone's film. He said that to the average American (the man in the street) the "mythical reality" created by Hollywood is more real than the "real reality". Historical truth will soon be forgotten but the myths live on in mens minds. The "Wild West" is a good example. Nobody knows what really happened, but everybody knows all about the tall tales of Buffalo Bill and all the others. I was baffled a few years ago when I learned that the film-sequence showing the planting of the American flag on Iwojima in World War II was staged. It never took place in real life! It was a myth created by a film-director like Stone. Don't these "brave" actors who raised the flag on Iwojima even have a statue of their own over there?

Has there ever been a sharp

borderline between fact and fiction in US history?
Do people who have been spreading the Warren
commissions official myth about the lone derailed
assassin really have any right to criticize

the counter myth ^{stone} he has created in his movie?
Why are these people worried about the truth
only when the official myth is challenged?

I've read the first few chapters of Garrison's
book. He doesn't seem to give much credit to
anyone else but himself. He immediately saw
all the flaws in the Warren Commission investi-

gation just by eyeing through the 26 volumes.
As far as I have been able to see he only mentions
you once in the entire book. But didn't he get
quite extensive help from you? Weren't you in

fact called down to New Orleans to try to
save his investigation when it was sinking rapidly?
If you have the strength maybe you could write about
a few of the worst misrepresentations in his book. It

would be interesting to know.
Although it is Christmas-time, it is
saddening to realize that the need for grown men to be-

lieve in myths is just as great as for children to believe
in Santa Claus.

Merry Christmas and a Happy
New Year

113. I forgot to mention that I
sent \$100 (together with my
brother and a friend) to the
AARC. Mainly because
you once told me you were
fond of Bud Fensterwald.
Hopefully the money went
to a good cause.