

Jim McKinley
7309 NW Maple Lane
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9/13/76

Dear Jim,

Your letter you dated the 8th, postmarked the 10th came today.

I would not have thought it but I guess you really do have less self-respect than a common whore.

You tell me that "it is untrue that I plagiarized your work" after Playboy paid me \$2,000 to do nothing about your stealing my JFK work alone?

After your duplication of this ~~an~~ my ^{king} work, which I presume contributed to your nice, long Spanish vacation, live with yourself.

You write self-serving letters knowing that in my situation I can't pay a lawyer.

"Sorry, but that was the nature of the beast" is your concession when you say that "the series was historical, not investigative" and you claim that "assassination buffs (whatever that is) have complimented the courtesy." What else would one expect when you credit whatever you mean with work not theirs, as you did with what I trusted you not to use and to preserve confidence on? Courtesy?

To this you crap on reality further with "Finally it is true that you receive more mentions than any other investigator [sic] and you were paid for your opinions and editing." But not for the thievery thinly disguised with attribution to others. Not, in fact, for either editing, which I did not do, nor opinions, which I would not expect Playboy to be interested in.

I don't believe I have ever laid claim to "sole wisdom." I believe, however, that I am entitled to the use of my own work, no matter what Playboy's wealth of that part of it that ~~share~~ ^{share} with wretches like you who are incapable of original work and are reduced to common thievery when it was not necessary to existence.

Having said nothing a man, a real man, could stand on, you almost conclude with "I have nothing more to say."

I don't know what I can do. I have the tapes I've told you about. I have the letters I've told you about. But the simple fact is that ~~when~~ those like you whose records disgrace those who are literally whore are the kinds of miserable bastards you are it does require wealth I do not have to attempt redress. If I can find the means, I will do what is possible.

I guess it is in keeping with your true character, ~~what~~ ^{what} I did not detect, that you append the handwritten note, "I hope your thrombosis abandons your leg and leaves that, as least, in peace." Would it were possible. That damage was beyond repair before I was hospitalized.

If you knew anything about anything, you would have known this. But as a ~~thief~~ thief who fattens by stealing for others, you have no original knowledge.

Live with yourself.

That's about curse enough.

Sincerely,



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8 September 1976

Harold:

No, I had't read your letter (the certified number) because it arrived when I was gone. Now I have, along with the other, later epistle in response to my note from Spain.

Faced with such vituperation and such slanders, there is little I can say, and nothing "reasonable." It is true that my articles contained errors, although five or six of us tried like hell to avoid them. It is also true that the series was historical, not investigative, and so had to summarize what was known and what had been reported instead of what might be or what was coming to light. Sorry, but that was the nature of the beast. It is also true that I credited as much as possible my sources, including you, and to an extent many other writers would not have (incidentally, other assassination buffs have complimented that courtesy). Finally, it is true that you receive more mentions than any other investigator (and that you were paid for your opinions and editing).

By contrast, it is untrue that I plagiarized your work, or have pre-empted areas exclusively yours. You are deluded, Harold, if you believe you have sole wisdom in the matters of JFK and King, or if you think no-one else had independently come to conclusions similar to yours. Such delusions, naturally, would feed your fierce dislike of anyone else's work in what you consider to be your dominions.

I have nothing more to say. Please comport yourself as you will, with lawyers or whatever. I stand by what I have done with the series, as does the magazine, as do our attorneys. And whatever you do, I hope it placates and soothes what is obviously a distressed temper.

I also hope your thrombosis abandons your leg and leaves that, at least, in peace.