

July 27, 1977

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Rt. 12 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I've been an avid reader of "assassination/conspiracy" literature for several years. In 1969 a friend showed me his copy of the Zapruder film. This was what first sparked my interest. During the early 1970's I heard several Warren Report critics interviewed by Jim Eason and Bob Trebor on their radio programs (KGO San Francisco). During this period I also started reading all of the available literature on the assassination. My interest has continued, and grown, to the present time. I was 13 years old when John Kennedy was murdered, I'm now 27.

I've read the whole gamut of books by now, from sarcastic Lane to poetic Garrison. Although your name appears in countless footnotes, it's only recently that my wife was able to obtain your six books. We had presumed them "out of print." I am very impressed with your work. This is probably "too little and too late," but you do have my sincere admiration for your diligent job of research and evaluation. That you were forced to publish so much of this material on your own is shameful. It certainly doesn't speak well for the "literary establishment" in this country. It is now quite obvious to me that your research has been extensively plagiarized by some early authors of assassination related books. I don't even find your name in the index of Rush to Judgement, though your Whitewash was published a year earlier and must have been an influence.

I don't know if you have time to answer personal correspondence. I have an idea, however, which I wish to discuss with you. I know you must be very busy so I'll try to be as brief as possible. If you're at all interested we may discuss it at greater length.

I've read a lot of conflicting material regarding the Altgens photo. Specifically, I refer to the Lovelady-Oswald question. Many people, including Josiah Thompson, were quick to accept the commission's explanation of the photo. You, however, made a very convincing case for the presence of Oswald

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in the doorway. Intriguing anecdotes about further attempts to investigate the question appear in Rush to Judgement and other books. Your own Photographic Whitewash amply documents widespread suppression of evidence in this area. I was undecided on the matter until the recent publication of the Model and Groden book, JFK, The Case For Conspiracy. You're probably already familiar with the photo of Lovelady which they reproduce. Although the authors (unfortunately) aren't specific about its origin, it looks as though it may be from the Zapruder film. They also omit documentation for their identification of the bearded man as Lovelady. It is actually seeing this picture which has very nearly persuaded me that it is Oswald in the doorway. I'm presuming, of course, that it will be possible to further document the "Bearded Lovelady" photo.

At this point in time I'm sure you'll agree that simple, concise and irrefutable evidence must be placed before the American people. It has become increasingly obvious that placing it before our government isn't doing any good. I'm convinced that the Altgens photo, and all available related material, is just such evidence. Most people simply don't have time to analyze highly technical data such as "Head Snap Velocities." The Altgens photo could be a pivotal piece of evidence in this case, if presented properly and at the right time.

I think a magazine article is the best possible vehicle for presenting this evidence to the public. What I visualize is an expansion of the format used on the back pages of Whitewash II, including all relevant photos. Perhaps some of the photographs which were so artfully kept out of the archives have since surfaced, and could be included. The text should touch on the suppression of this evidence, as well as its meaning. Much of the material for such an article already exists, it is simply scattered through several (regretfully) rather obscure books by various authors.

I think there are several magazines which would be interested in publishing this article. Rolling Stone has a strong bias for any type of "photo essay." They have published "conspiracy" material in the past, some of which has been excellent (see "The Hughes-Nixon-Lansky Connection" by Howard Khon, Issue #213, May 20th, 1976). Several other national magazines have followed Rolling Stone's lead, most notably New Times. Several California publications, such as Marin Life and Pacific Sun, have an ongoing interest in the Kennedy case and related matters.

I'm sure that you're aware of the upcoming TV movie "The Oswald Trial." This farce will, of course, depict Oswald as the proverbial lone nut. I feel this is part of a widespread

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attempt to "re-whitewash" the entire case. "The Oswald Trial" could, however, serve to focus attention on questions surrounding Oswald as the assassin. Unfortunately the public has been inundated by complicated and conflicting conspiracy theories for several years already. I'm afraid that many people will jump at a simple, palatable and visual explanation, such as that provided (conveniently) by a TV movie. A well illustrated article, appearing concurrently with "The Oswald Trial," is the best available way to prevent this.

A visual image on television can only be countered by another visual image. The simplicity of this program will be most effectively countered by a simple, direct article, one which avoids complicated conjecture, focusing instead on what is obvious to the eye.

I've considered writing such an article myself, however, I don't want to add my name to your long list of plagerizers. So, you're most welcome to write it yourself. On the other hand, if you would consider a collaboration, I would be honored. I'm not concerned about making money with this project; if we do it together and are published, you would be entitled to most of whatever income might be forthcoming. I'm not a professional writer.

I'm sorry to have taken up so much of your time with this. Obviously, the idea has excited me. That's why I've gone to such lengths trying to express it. I've some other thoughts, concerning documenting the November 22 Lovelady photos, which I haven't covered in this letter. I hope you will consider what I have said. Again, thank you for your invaluable books. This is a dire time for freedom in America. Your continuing struggle is an inspiration to me and, I'm sure, to countless others as well.

Respectfully yours,



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