

12/6/95

Dear Steven Smith,

Your letter and the song are touching and the dedication would be an appreciated honor!

I'm glad you included the verses and the chorus because my hearing is impaired and I could not make the words out, as my wife did. We both liked it. What I could get and did like was the beat. It was so appropriate to the message!

I did not remember the name but I did remember Barb asking me to autograph. She and Doug DeSalles had been here the year before and when Barb phoned about coming again she also said, "And we got to Dutch's Daughter again." This relates to your mention of our going to dinner together. It was, because of the convoluted hours I keep, for lunch. The restaurant the name of which after a year Barb and Doug remembered has the best crab cakes ever, and they wanted and had them again.

Particularly because of your career in police work I appreciate what you said and I thank you for it.

You ask about putting a question mark after the word "slayer" and of course that is a question. Would it work if instead of "a" you used "alleged"? The question mark will not be heard but the word will be.


You ask if I ever had a response from Posner. Not a word. Nor from Random House. But I did hear from inside Random House that its vice president and executive editor, Bob Loomis, who was Posner's editor and who shares the dedication with Posner's wife, was seen stalking their halls clutching a copy of Case Open and muttering, "Gotta sue that old son-of-a-bitch."

The price list you asked for is enclosed. Thanks for the SASE. As you can see from my typing, which can't be any better, that does help the mailman. And me.

I do not know if Barb told you but all my work will be a permanent free public archive at a fine small college, Hood. Some is already there and can be used by others, students included. The professor in charge is a good friend. When he comes again later this week I'll give him your letter and the cassette and it will already be on deposit there.

Good luck with the song and again thanks for your letter.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg



STEVEN R. SMITH

LYRICIST
COMPOSER

December 1, 1995

Harold Weisberg,
7627 Old Receiver Rd.
Frederick, Maryland 21702

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

I am Steven R. Smith. I doubt that you would recall autographing a book (*Whitewash IV: JFK Top Secret Assassination Transcript*), but you did recently via a friend (Barb Junkkarinen). She had dinner with you while attending the COPA conference in October. Thank you for that, sir.

In return for you taking the time to autograph the book, I would like to forward a copy of a song I composed, regarding the JFK assassination called *LONG TIME AGO*. It is about the three days surrounding that tragic event as it occurred before a horrified nation.

I saw President Kennedy when I was but six years old, in early 62. He was in an open motorcade heading to the naval base in Norfolk, VA. As I recall, Jackie was riding with him. And he waved directly at me. The memory is deeply etched within my heart.

Regarding *LONG TIME AGO*? It was simply to relate a mood for people today as those of us who recall from then. I also felt it was important not to point fingers in any one direction, as far as conjecture and what happened behind the scenes.

Hell, for twenty some odd years, I thought that Oswald was the lone assassin and perhaps had just got off a lucky shot. I believed that until I saw the Zapruder film on the BIG screen. I was absolutely speechless (breathless may be a better word) when I saw it that way. TV does not do that footage justice. My God, how could the FBI have been so blind?

I also thought that the so called "magic bullet" lined up via some coincidence. But then I'd never seriously looked into the matter till reading David Lifton's *BEST EVIDENCE* and finally seeing that Zapruder film giant size within the Oliver Stone film.

The JFK film got me going to tell the story as I remembered feeling. I had only seen things happen as one American so far away. And like so many, I remember where I was when...

Since recording the initial demo in 1992, I have been interviewed on radio (woke out of a dead sleep by a jazz DJ at 4:00 AM) regarding my ideas on what happened. Because of that, I felt it was important to look beyond the "official story" and try and get some facts right.

By the way, I am a retired state police officer and a certified crime scene photographer/evidence tech. I am only a novice regarding the assassination, but have studied it heavily since that JFK film. I am not in agreement with the overall film, but think that that movie moved the nation to the point of getting something done. Too bad it was 29 years too late. Having only read what is available in commercial print and watched all that I can in regards to video, I am now shocked and appalled that we swallowed the Warren Report so easily.

Your research, Mr. Weisberg, seems to be the cornerstone to solving much of the puzzle. I just wonder how many ulcers you have from going to court to sue for all that we now have in regards to transcripts and such? Mrs Weisberg must be a very patient lady to see you work so hard. So many authors and producers have benefitted greatly, thanks to your sole efforts.

I was glad to see you fire a response to Posner's *CASE CLOSED*. I missed his book when it first came out, but saw the backlash via the online BBs I frequent. I blasted, with my own limited police background, some of the Warren report findings and was dismayed at the amount of hate E-mail I got. Because of that, I have spent my time as a passive reader.

I relax through writing music. *LONG TIME AGO* has gotten a warm response from those I play it for, but an icy response from publishers. G. Gordon Liddy actually mentioned it on his radio program, but said I probably only sent it to him as a way of gaining publicity for myself. I did not write it to "cash in" on the killing of our president. It is a damned good, important song, and deserves to be heard. In 1993 I finally published the thing myself. I had always hoped to get it on a respectable documentary as background music. We'll see.

I meant for this to be short, and here I am at two pages already. My reading has gotten so backlogged that I will never catch up on all that is out there. I don't know how you do all the research and reading either.

I would like to dedicate the song *LONG TIME AGO* to you, should I ever get it released on a national level. But before I do, I want to ask if you would mind. I also have thought of putting a question mark after the word *Slayer*, because, I don't think we will ever know for sure who killed President Kennedy. I'd appreciate any thoughts you may have on that. Even if someone confesses, will they ever be believed? That's the true tragedy. America is left with a seemingly unanswerable question. And for those of us who were old enough to remember, "haunted" is the best word to say how it affects us.

Your work is truly genuine. Some others, I feel, want to answer questions so badly that they will fabricate evidence or utilize omission to make it fit their point of view. That is exactly what this country doesn't need. Your work simply shows us exactly what the government denies, yet it has printed the facts in unflattering black and white. And thank

God, someone like you has found the truth obscured in public records and doesn't let them get away with it.

If I ever get the chance to say thank you in person, I will be happy to take you out to dinner, and I'll probably be like a little kid wanting to hear all that you can tell me. From what Barb Junkkarinen says of seeing your row upon row of file cabinets it makes you seem bigger than life. It's hard to believe that all those files come from a single event.

Did Gerald Posner have a response to *CASE OPEN*? How could he have had the nerve to print his book after misrepresenting your research?

Sir, there is so much more I want to ask, but that was not the intention of this letter. It was, as I began, to thank you for taking the time to sign your book for me. If you have a cassette player please have a listen to *LONG TIME AGO*, my co-lyricist Nancy J. Gates and I would be honored to know your thoughts on it.

If possible, I'd like a price list of the books you still have available. I've enclosed a SASE for your convenience.

Very sincerely, I am

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Steve R. Smith". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed text.



STEVEN R. SMITH

LYRICIST
COMPOSER

LONG TIME AGO
(F Major)

-2 Bar Intro-

Verse: J.F.K. rode through the town
Passing by the waving crowd
He waved back smi-i-ling and then
Frozen time...shattered by some shots

Chorus: Long time ago...in the city of Dal--las
They greeted him...with open arms
Then the motorcade began
Oh-a long time ago

Verse: With that final...fa-tal shot
One so young...forgotten not
Who's to blame...we shall never know
Seems to be...thorns without the rose

Chorus: Long time ago...In the city of Dal--las
They greeted him...with open arms
Then the motorcade began
Well-a long time ago

Verse: Thirteenth hour of the day
President had passed a-way
What to tell...as the na--tion grieved
Who was he...What could we be-lieve

Bridge:
Fear shocked hell...a slayer slain
Tear drops fell with ev-ning rain
.....

Verse: Caisson rumbled...rolling by
Black Jack gelding... head held high
Proud salute...little one stood tall
Endless flame...burning for us all

Coda: Long time ago...
Seems like yesterda---ay.

Music (C) 1992 by Steven R. Smith
Lyrics (C) 1992 by Steven R. Smith and Nancy J. Gates