

Mr. Jack Valenti (Personal)
Motion Picture Association of America
1600 Eye St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21702
4/9/92

Dear Mr. Valenti,

From the account of your criticism of Oliver Stone and his movie in the New York Times of April 2, you were kind to that monster and his fraud and travesty!

Perhaps his greatest indecencies were that he was knowingly, intendedly exploiting and commercializing the JFK assassination and as he told his "Mister X" who was careless enough to put it in a letter I have, was using it as a vehicle for saying ~~en~~ what he wanted to say about Viet Nam.

Were I not 79 and in seriously impaired health, as I regret my typing reflects, I would have had a factual book exposing his whoring with out-history out before his film was done.

As you may remember, I was the source of George Lardner's Washington Post story of a year ago, the first exposure of what Stone was up to. His story was completely accurate, as Stone's response was not.

I am the author of the first book on the Warren Commission and of six on the JFK assassination and its investigations. Not a theory in any one of them. As Stone knew before he started shooting, I got about a quarter of a million pages of once-withheld government records by a series of FOIA suits and make them freely available to all writers. He had no interest in them. His sole interest was in the wild theories. When illnesses prevented my being confident in the accuracy of what I could write I wrote no more books and instead sought to make as complete and factual a ^{as possible} record for history. All I have will be a permanent public archive at local Hood College. So, when Stone said what you appear to have missed, that he would record their history for the people, telling them "who" killed their President, "why" and "how" and added that he was basing his film on Jim Garrison's book, based on my personal experience with Garrison I wrote Stone at some length, 2/8/91. He did not respond. Then, when I was given a copy of the script, which Stone said over and over again I stole and also sold for profit, another of his innumerable lies, I spoke to Lardner. We've known each other for 25 years and if you have any interest in what I have on Stone and his movie, I suggest you ask him about me. I hope ^d the story would carry itself and it did. When Stone runs off at the mouth about all those hundreds of "recipied" CIA reporters and The Establishment being out to get him, he is and he knows he is talking about this one infirm man.

If you would like copies of my correspondence with Stone, I'll be glad to send them to you. The only response I got was from his "research coordinator," who explored whether I would accept a bribe. She did not use this word but no other meaning is

possible. I also was threatened by one of his lawyers and another responded when the monster had the gall to say that I was helping him to reporters, who printed that lie.

To give you an idea of how intendedly dishonest Stone was, I told him in that 2/8/91 letter that two of Garrison's staff asked me to try to prevent still another atrocity he had planned to commemorate (ugh!) the fifth JFK assassination anniversary because they had not been able to stop him. I did make the investigation that forced him to abandon that horror. I have a copy of my investigative report and more than enough of the documentation. Gardner had access to this and he can give you his own estimate of it. His story was moderate, given the material. Which, of course, was available to Stone.

Garrison was going to charge a right-wing preacher's west-coast representative, Edgar Eugene Bradley, with being a JFK assassin solely on the base of the obviously false allegation he that he was ^{one of} the ~~so~~ men in the so-called "tramp" pictures. He ^{also} was going to charge Robert L. Perrin with being a second Grassy ¹ "noll assassin, in 1963, although he knew that Perrin had killed himself in New Orleans in 1962!

When I had Garrison boxed into a corner, he merely forgot Bradley and he fired a man he had hired and paid from private funds, William Wood, who used the name "Boxley," making up the tale that the CIA had infiltrated Boxley onto his staff to wreck the investigation.

Knowing this and more and much more about these two insanities Stone asked me no questions and nonetheless proceeded with the script based on the book in which Garrison lies about this and much else. I gave him other illustrations of Garrison's lying, one that I recall really ludicrous.

And he persisted in saying and getting wide coverage for his claim that his movie was our real history. He never abandoned this lie, although to some reporters he had to take a different line.

Even after making his movie Stone remained grossly ignorant of the fact of the crime and its investigations. When he appeared on Nightline he had to be prompted in advance of the telecast on what to say. The satellite was live and I have a transcript of his flaunting of his ignorance, asking his "research coordinator," Jane Rusconi, what he should say ^{such things as} about the shot to the head, the fatal shot.

This is but an encapsulation. I think there is a significant book in this and I think I've done all the research. I wish I were up to it!

^{I think} Stone did remove from the penny-dreadful script, among other disclosed lies, Garrison's about his firing of Boxley. Garrison lied also about how ^{in the} that was exposed.

Warner's chairman is wrong about the withheld Warren Commission files, only about 2% of which are still withheld, and about their content. No smoking gun there, absolutely. And the form of the resolution on file disclosure Stone supports assures at the very least great delay and invites an unnecessary veto. Having lied about the withholdings and really being amoral and unprincipled he could hardly back off. But all executive agencies records

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are accessible under FOIA, how I got so many. The only records not available under FOIA are those the House generated of its vast files. Those it got from the agencies are being disclosed. I have two file drawers of them and a friend has about 80,000 pages from the FBI alone. If Stone has sought meaningful disclosure, of which he knew from a friend of mine who worked for that committee, he'd have pushed for a simple House resolution to compel their processing for disclosure. That could have passed by now.

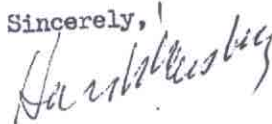
Stone is now behind two books at least one of which is to be used in schools, to stuff his personal "Triumph of the Will" into youthful heads as our authentic history. That will be published, how inappropriate the name, by "Learning Enrichment." The other is by Applause Books. It at least will include the shooting script.

I'm not taking the time to check the early script I was given, a copy of one of the countless copies Stone himself gave away, but it is my recollection that in it he was a bit stronger than what the Times said, "implies that President ~~Lyndon B.~~ Johnson was part of a government conspiracy" to kill ^{JFK} ~~Lincoln~~. Before JFK was buried it had Johnson telling his generals that he would give them their war, something like that.

I think you can see a bit of what led me to tell one interviewed that people who sell sex have more principle.

May I please have a copy of your statement and of anything else you may have that can be of future use in the archive I leave on this?
Thanks you very much.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg

Valenti Denounces Stone's 'J. F. K.' As a 'Smear'

NY Times, April 2, 1992
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By BERNARD WEINRAUB

Special to The New York Times

HOLLYWOOD, April 1 — In a highly unusual and angry statement, Jack Valenti, the president and chief executive of the Motion Picture Association of America and a former top aide to President Lyndon B. Johnson, denounced the film "J. F. K." today as a "hoax," a "smear" and "pure fiction" that rivaled the Nazi propaganda films of Leni Reifenstahl.

Mr. Valenti, a film industry spokesman and lobbyist in Washington, has kept silent until now about the Oliver Stone film, which opened in December. He emphasized that he was making a personal statement that "has no connection to my responsibilities in the movie industry."

"Indeed, I waited to speak out because I didn't want to do anything which might affect this picture's theatrical release or the Oscar balloting," he said.

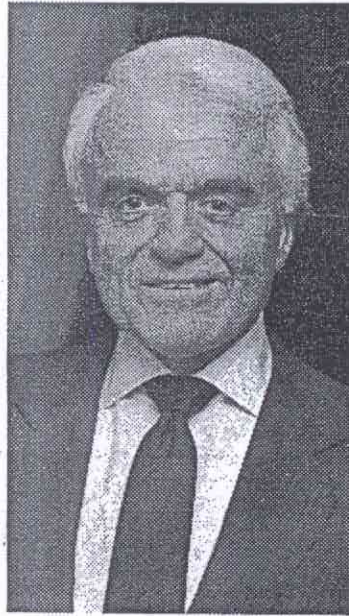
'The Half True and the Totally False'

In the seven-page statement, Mr. Valenti said Mr. Stone's film was "a monstrous charade" based on "the hallucinatory bleatings of an author named Jim Garrison, a discredited former district attorney in New Orleans." The movie implies that President Johnson was part of a Government conspiracy in the assassination of President Kennedy.

"Does any sane human being truly believe that President Johnson, the Warren Commission members, law-enforcement officers, C.I.A., F.B.I., assorted thugs, weirdos, Frisbee throwers, all conspired together as plotters in Garrison's wacky sightings?" he said. "And then for almost 29 years nothing leaked? But you have to believe it if you think well of any part of this accusatory lunacy."

"In scene after scene Mr. Stone plasters together the half true and the totally false and from that he manufactures the plausible," Mr. Valenti said in his statement. "No wonder that many young people, gripped by the movie, leave the theater convinced they have been witness to the truth."

"In much the same way, young German boys and girls in 1941 were mesmerized by Leni Reifenstahl's 'Triumph of the Will,' in which Adolf Hitler was depicted as a newborn God," he said. "Both 'J. F. K.' and



The New York Times

Jack Valenti

'Triumph of the Will' are equally a propaganda masterpiece and equally a hoax. Mr. Stone and Leni Reifenstahl have another genetic linkage: neither of them carried a disclaimer on their film that its contents were mostly pure fiction."

What makes the statement especially unusual is that as head of the Motion Picture Association since 1966, the Texas-born, Harvard-educated Mr. Valenti has sought to keep his employers, the movie studios, as happy as possible without stirring controversy despite his high profile in Hollywood and Washington. One of those employers, Warner Brothers, produced "J. F. K.," which has raised considerable debate over its blend of speculation, fiction and fact.

In a telephone interview, Mr. Valenti said he delayed attacking the movie because of his job. "Warner Brothers is a member of my association, and I owe them a fidelity to my responsibility," he said. "While this is a personal statement, I did not want to do anything that, in the slightest way, would affect this picture's journey and its chances of winning an Academy Award." The movie, which

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Valenti Denounces 'J.F.K.' as a 'Hoax' and 'Smear'

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was nominated for eight Academy Awards, won two on Monday night, for cinematography and editing, and has grossed more than \$68 million in the United States. It is also expected to prove a strong box-office success in Europe.

Mr. Valenti said he had told Warner Brothers that he planned to issue a statement but had not provided the text to the studio. "They recognize that I am in a difficult position, but I told them that this was such a personal thing it goes deep into my vitals," he said. "I owe where I am today to Lyndon Johnson. I could not live with myself if I stood by mutely and let some film maker soil his memory."

Mr. Stone, who received a copy of the statement from Mr. Valenti late this afternoon, said by telephone: "While I respect Jack Valenti's enduring loyalty to President Johnson, I find his emotional diatribe off the mark. The overwhelming majority of Americans — and not just the young,

whom Mr. Valenti puts down as too impressionable — agree with the central thesis of my film: that President Kennedy was killed by a conspiracy, which included people in the Government."

He added: "I am enormously proud of the artistic and political impact which 'J. F. K.' has had. I hope Mr. Valenti, now that he has vented his spleen, will join in supporting the joint House-Senate resolution that all Government files in the assassination of President Kennedy be opened so that the American people can have a fuller understanding of that tragedy and its continuing implications for our democracy."

Robert A. Daly, the chairman of Warner Brothers, said the company supported Mr. Stone but understood Mr. Valenti's fury. "Our feeling is very simple," he said. "We support the movie. We think it's a wonderful movie. We have the utmost regard for what Oliver Stone did. As far as Jack Valenti is concerned, the fact that he's loyal to L. B. J. is admirable, and I would hope anybody who worked for

me for all those years would be that loyal. I have nothing but the highest regard for Jack."

Mr. Daly said that if the Warren Commission files are opened because of pressure generated by the film, he was convinced that some of the movie's speculation about more than one assassin would be borne out.

'Was There'

Mr. Valenti began working for Mr. Johnson in 1955 when he was the Senate majority leader and later served at the White House as Mr. Johnson's assistant from 1963 to 1966.

Mr. Valenti handled the press during the visit of President Kennedy and Vice President Johnson to Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, when Mr. Kennedy was assassinated.

In his statement, Mr. Valenti said: "My own rebuttal to Mr. Stone comes down to this: I was there, and he wasn't."

Mr. Valenti said in his statement that he stood beside Mr. Johnson when he was sworn in on the plane carrying Kennedy's coffin, that he lived at the White House for two

months afterwards, that he "read every paper that crossed the President's desk, including the most top-secret documents, and was an ear-witness to many of his most confidential phone conversations." He continued: "I was there when President Johnson ruminated about the assassination, and the urgency to enlist the most prestigious citizens within the Republic to inspect this murder carefully, objectively, swiftly."

After naming some of the members of the Warren Commission, which Mr. Stone has denounced because of its conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in killing President Kennedy, Mr. Valenti said: "To indict these men of honor, along with Lyndon Johnson, is vicious, cruel and false."

He added, "No matter his brilliant creative skills, and they are considerable, Mr. Stone has with deliberate forethought put on the screen a monstrous charade about President Johnson that ranks right up there with the best work of old-guard Soviet revisionist historians."

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April 6, 1992

Jack Valenti
President
Motion Picture Association of
America
1600 Eye St. NW
Washington, D.C.
20006

Dear Mr. Valenti,

This morning's newspaper contains an article describing your denouncing of Oliver Stone's film JFK.

I would like a copy of your press release, which the story stated was seven pages.

I must add that your attack on JFK was too reserved: it is a much worse film than the story relates you found it to be. I sat through its 188 minutes and found only 8 minutes to be sound, the rest was fraud, lies, propaganda, and disinformation. I have subject matter expertise and am fully knowledgeable about Garrison and all the rest. I also disagree that it is artistically sound: it is terribly flawed.

Stone had the script ready to be disseminated to schools, high schools and colleges where it will become the "standard" approach to the murder of President Kennedy, which along with a guide also prepared by his company fully means that the doctrines will become in a generation the American view of the murder along with all the corruption and poisoning of the public mind that entails.

At present I am preparing an article to attack the script and those who support it. My article is based on factual critique. Unfortunately, given the strength of his resources there is little hope to counteract the full impact of this filth. But I shall try. As you no doubt also are aware there are others with subject matter expertise who share your view. If you would be interested I could give you information on them.

Sincerely

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