

Dear Hal,

2/26/92

So there will not be any confusion, this is to thank you for your 2/22 and the fat batch of stuff in it. I'll be going over it when I can, in odd moments. It has been much too busy, interest, esp from the media, other phonecalls, book orders and even medical appointments and tests, the latter lasting all day today until almost 3 p.m.

What you've discovered about LHO does interest me and I look forward to it.

Has what caused Ranftel to collapse been reported?

I don't know what "ohs" means by "reopening" the JFK files. Those that are open are already open. And used by almost nobody, especially not those clamoring for disclosure.

I don't remember ever appearing with Schoenman, I've said nothing about any of those helping Stone by name, I never offered him my services, a lie one of his whores made up, and I declined any association with him when I was in effect enticed to be interested in a bribe. Or, nothing you attribute to him is true. I have mentioned Marrs by name.

I've lost track of the interviews. I do not recall a German taping- ~~not~~ there was one but I recall nothing about it. I'd thought for a moment Wrone had that mixed up with being interviewed by the German Penthouse. We never know what they use but what they taped was ok.

I get The Nation. No need to xerox from that, thanks.

A new crazy book out today, "Mortal Error." The guys has been saying for years that that Secret Service Agent Hickey shot JFK by accident. I've tried in every way I could to show him that it is impossible and after not hearing from him in years assumed he'd forgotten it. The Post phoned me on it today and I spoke kindly of him in saying his theory is impossible. They just phoned me back to check a quote and in the course said by the way, you are trashed in the book. I didn't know I was mentioned. He says they explain my criticism ~~of~~ by the knowledge I did not have!

I may hold this for a day or two to see if I want to say anything about the enclosures. I'm glad to have them, thanks. If nothing important I won't add because we are just snowed under and both are quite tired.

Hope you are well now, and best,

P.O. Box 721815
S.F., CA 94142-1815

FEB. 22, 1992

TO = HAROLD WEISBERG
7627 OLD RECEIVER ROAD
FREDERICK, MD. 21702

Dear Hal =

I'll try to keep this as brief as possible.
I'm enclosing copies of articles, etc. which, of course, you can keep. There was an article (today) by Gardner on the CIA & the JFK files. I presume you have the Wash. Post story on it. A copy of the S.F. Chronicle article is enclosed.

You'll note, also, the article appearing in the S.F. Chronicle on the CIA and its involvement in business. Although it doesn't relate to the JFK affair, I think you'll find it useful.

Also enclosed is stuff sent me by Prof. Jerry Rose who publishes "The Third Decade" which, as you probably are aware of devoted to research on the JFK assassination. I'll have an article in the Jan-March 1992 issue on Oswald & the "defector" program. I'll send you a copy of it & I'd like your comment on it. I'm also preparing an article for a future issue on Oswald as "informant" (it's not yet completed). It'll use material you put in the Whitewash series but goes beyond it. I think I've discovered things about this no one has looked into. Again, I'll send a copy when it gets

(see over)

published), I'd like your evaluation of it because I believe my evidence is fairly solid. You'll know what I mean when you see the article.

Prof. Rose has designated me as a "convener" to get a group going interested in reopening files on JFK. I'll "convene" for the Northern California + S.F. area. If you get a chance tell Tom Cesar. I know he'd be interested. Although I've subscribed to his group I've yet to receive anything from him. I think it's important we stay in touch.

I gave two talks here in the Bay area on the JFK affair & discussed the Stone movie. I took a highly critical stance on it & was given some "heat" because of my position. They thought I was "nit picking" the errors in the film & failing to "recognize" the great "merit" in what Stone is doing. In fact Ralph Schoenman called me up from Santa Barbara. Apparently one of his cohorts had heard me speak. (Refer to Schoenman's article I sent you in my last letter in a publication known as "The Organizer". The "Organizer" is a new publication of an organization that split from the Trotskyist party which publishes "Socialist Action". There are now 3 splinter groups each publishing its own newspaper. The "Militant" is the original & the "Socialist Action" second & now "The Organizer").

I told Schoenman that there were errors in his article (such as the Ruby-Nixon House / American bit & that Ruby & Oswald both had P.O. boxes in New Orleans). But what really griped me was his derogatory references to you. He said he had appeared with you & others on a panel (New York?) & that you had trashed other researchers & writers. I then pointed out that you had offered you services to Oliver Stone in Feb. of last year & never got a reply.

By the way when I gave my talk (in S.F.) I dedicated my presentation to you & other serious researchers who, I said, were the "cursing heroes" of this whole affair. I mentioned Bob Ranftel by name also. (By the way, I was incorrect when I wrote you that Ranftel died after collapsing on his motorcycle. Paul Hock told me Ranftel owned a bike not a motorcycle. The reason I said it was a motorcycle was that my original source said it was & I merely repeated to you what he told me. Paul Hock is still going over the stuff Ranftel left behind. (Please note the Ranftel article on his death - Tom Sanders gave me the story on it).

I understand from Prof. Worme you did a taping for a German TV program. Hope it went well. Worme told me he's been very busy appearing on different programs.

Better close now before this gets too long! Best,
Hal

Mr. David Talbot, editor
Image
San Francisco Examiner
Box 7260
San Francisco, CA 94120

7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21702
2/27/92

Dear Mr. Talbot,

While in general there is much justified criticism of the major media in Todd Gitlin's "Killing the Messenger" commentary on Oliver Stone's "Killing the Messenger" article (2/16/92) it in fact reflects Stone's success in suckering the nation into believing that criticism of him and his movie was part of a CIA plot by "recipied" CIA reporters and "The Estblishment." I speak with authority on this because I am those "recipied" reporters allegedly working for the CIA, as Gitlin should have known from what he states to begin with:

"The campaign against JFK started rolling before the cameras did, back on May 19, 1991, when ~~George Lardner~~ Washington Post national security writer George Lardner, working from a purloined first draft of Stone's screenplay, lit into the moviemaker for his re-interpretation of historic events."

Lardner's article, which appeared after Stone had been filming in Dallas for weeks, makes it clear I was his source. I am the author of the first book on the Warren Commission and of six others on the investigations of the JFK and Martin Luther King assassinations, all factual, advancing ~~not~~ theoretical solutions, and all critical of all government agencies, including the CIA and the FBI, involved in those investigations. And as anyone with the most rudimentary knowledge of the subject matter knows, I filed about a dozen FOIA lawsuits against these agencies as a result of which I obtained about a third of a million pages of previously-withheld records that I make freely available to all writing on these assassinations.

In early February, 1991, from Stone's own propaganda for his movie, I learned that he touted it as recording their history for the people, telling them who killed their President, why and how and as based on Jim Garrison's false and fraudulent rewriting of his own tragedy and fiasco. On February 8 I wrote Stone in detail, with documentation and offering more documentation and to answer any and all questions he might have, telling him that he would inevitably be producing a drau and a travesty.

If Stone had not from the outset and without ever ending represented his movie as the factual truth, as non-fiction, he would have had every right to say anything he wanted to say. But once he said it was factual and truthful when he knew it wasn't and could not be, he was properly subject to criticism based entirely on what he himself said and what is public knowledge about his hero, Jim Garrison.

Gitlin repeats Stone's lie, that the script I gave Lardner was "purloined." In fact it is a copy made from a copy Stone himself gave away. As I told Stone in my second letter to him, refuting his June 2 Washington Post article pretendingly responding to Lardner's, like Garrison, he has trouble telling the truth even by accident - and doesn't.

anyone with any factual knowledge of what Stone did and said, and I believe this is the kind of knowledge required for writing your article, particularly when the author is a professor of sociology, has to have known that it was without question from Stone's first propaganda for his movie that he intended it to be a commercialization and exploitation of the JFK assassination. He missed no trick, beginning with taking the name "Camelot" for the time he was making the movie and abandoning that name as soon as it was in the can when his own production company is Ixtlan, the name on the film and in Warner's press kit on it, continuing with his well-publicized insistence that because of his determination to be true to fact in every detail he required the use of the building from which, in the official mythology all shots were fired, and emphasized in his many interviews with those he believed would support him - and did. In fact, as one of his associates has written, Stone told him that he was using the JFK assassination as a vehicle for saying what he wanted to say about Viet Nam.

Simultaneously Stone was proclaiming that he was basing his movie on all that had come to light since the Warren Report. This is a Goebbels-like lie. He had no interest in fact and he never once asked for access to or even a single page of all those records he knew I have and make freely available. *His sole interest was in conspiracy theories.*

When he did not respond to my warning (in which I asked nothing at all of him) for two months, ~~he~~ having known Lardner for 25 years and knowing that he wrote more stories critical of the official "solution" than any other reporter, I gave him the Stone script and access to all my records relating to what Garrison did and planned. Lardner used some of what was in my first letter to Stone, how when asked by Garrison's staff, which had failed to persuade him, I prevented an additional atrocity Garrison planned for his commemoration of the fifth JFK assassination anniversary. One of the illustrations should suffice. He was going to charge two additional "Grassy Noll" assassins, both innocent and solely on the basis of what he imagined, knowing full well that one, Robert W. Ferrin, had killed himself the year before he allegedly killed JFK.

Knowing this and more almost two months before he started shooting, Stone filmed ~~his~~ from his original script in which he made minor changes to get around only some of the exposures of its many fabrications.

As from my own reporting experience of the distant past and subject-matter knowledge I hoped and expected, once there was a definitive and accurate exposure of Stone's ~~crass~~ crass commercialization and exploitation the story ^{did} carry itself.

Stone's lies were faithfully retailed by his sycophants as part of his propaganda to pretend that sinister forces were out to ruin him and suppress the alleged truth he would be filming. As recently as the day before I write this I received another of the many allegations that I started exposure of him because he refused to pay me for being one of his consultants. There is no basis for this at all and the exact opposite is true. In

non-response to my June 3 letter of point-by-point refutation of his June 4² article his "research coordinator" wrote me what can be interpreted only as a solicitation to accept a bribe. My response was that I wanted nothing at all to do with him or his movie but nonetheless he like all others was welcome to free and unsupervised access to all those once-withheld records he insisted on all possible occasions remained suppressed.

Stone has, of course, excited the multitude but in doing this he has in fact re-written the history of this great tragedy for commercial purposes. He has deceived and misled the people and added to the confusion about the assassination. He has done this in a way that further protects the official miscreants from their failings, including their deceiving and misleading the people in the unacceptable official "solution."

And, for his Warren Report from the other side and his propaganda that sinister forces were out to suppress him, aside from the money his movie makes he has already been awarded a "Golden Globe" for his fraud and treachery and as of this writing is candidate for a number of Oscar awards.

With your unfortunate article additional propaganda for additional awards when for what he has done he deserves condemnation.

Our great national tragedy ought not be the subject of commercialization and exploitation and those writing about it ought be fully and accurately informed lest, as Gitlin did, they become part of his propaganda and further confuse, deceive and mislead the people.

Should you want the truth, I'll be glad to send you copies of my correspondence with Stone.

Please excuse my typing. At 78 and in impaired health, I am required to keep my legs elevated except when I am walking and thus the typewriter is to my side when I use it.

Sincerely,
Harold Weisberg
Harold Weisberg