

Mr. Mark Zaid
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7/20/89

Dear Mark,

You have every reason to be proud of your higher honors on your thesis. I'm sure Wrono also will be glad to hear this. I'll let him know.

First, another caution: you are about to enter a period of your life that will require great amounts of time and effort and you defeat yourself if you do not find all the time and effort it should have. So, don't get involved in all the projects you outline and find you do not have enough time to do anything well.

I have read Garrison's book and do not want to comment on it. However, it also gives me an opportunity to repeat something I told you before: you have to know more than you know or have been able to learn to be making judgements. Take Garrison's book, for example. Suppose he angles what he says, eliminates what is uncongenial to his argument or his own past? How could you know? Isn't this really true about all the recent books?

OK, you are going to make a study of the discrepancies involving JFK's brain. What will you have when you are finished, assuming you can do all you'd like to do? Is it just something to do or can you do something meaningful with your finished product?

You are going to be a lawyer, so let me resume with your leaning to Groden's theory of faked film. Even hear of William of Occam? Or the novel based on his and his philosophy, Occam's Razor? I go with Occam: seek the simplest solutions. Well, what do the films Groden claims were faked show or do? Do they support the official mythology? Did I not use that and the related evidence to demolish the official mythology. (I'm assume that you finally got around to reading Post Mortem.) They do not, obviously. So, a la Occam, why in the world would errant officials fake film that destroy the story they base on it? Does it make any sense at all?

Essentially, all of these things and theories and, I suspect, your coming study of brain discrepancies, are diversion. Maybe intellectual games for those involved. But what can they mean, what can they say that is new, how can they shed new light on what is not new? Or, what good can or will it do?

Last I heard of Bowron she was in LA and I'm not 100% sure of that. But you purpose, to speak to her about Lifton's theories. If you don't know enough to know that would be a waste of time you don't know enough to do any real research or make any real studies. Lifton's theories can't withstand critical analyses to anyone with any knowledge of the subject matter and the literature that is dependable, including also the dependable he does base part of his theory on. Don't go for the flashes and for a lawyer that can be disastrous. You are seeking only the spectacular and that will get you nowhere and do no good at all.

The only thing ^{good} you've mentioned to this point, ^{is} a study of the legalities in the case against Oswald. But ought not a lawyer have another consideration in mind other than those you mention? How about what of the alleged evidence could have been used against him? Could he have been tried at all? You mention the lineups. Do you expect to add anything of substance to what is in my first book?

I know nothing about Oswald's dealings ^{with} ~~with~~ ANY- with the Scheitzer College. Again, what do you hope to be able to establish and what can it mean?

You ask me if I know anything about Hoover's attempts to infiltrate the CIA. No. Do you know that it happened or is this just another of the many wild geese you chase? The area of Oswald and any intelligence connections is a good one but what do you know to begin with and what makes you think that if any agency had any records they still exist? Or if they did would disclose them?...I would not dream of ~~making~~ making any suggestions of areas for you to look into because you've already gotten interested in too many you'll not be able to do much about and you shouldn't when you are about to enter law school. Don't be a showoff or a sensation seeker. Keep first things first. Best wishes, Harold Weisberg.

Harold



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July 14, 1989

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

Sorry it has taken me so long to contact you. After graduation I immediately left for Europe for three weeks. As soon as I arrived back in the US I moved to Albany to begin work. I made a copy of my thesis for you, but unfortunately it is still packed away at my home on Long Island. I have been moving around so much that I still have not had a chance to unpack. But as soon as I return home to visit, (which will be within a couple of weeks), I will locate the copy and send it to you.

I am proud to announce that I received higher honors for the thesis (the levels were high, higher, and highest). I was one of only two students who received honors in both the history and political science departments. The paper came out to be about 60 pages and was very similar to Henry Hurt's chapter on the autopsy. The following persons all played a role in developing the paper: yourself, Robert Grodin, Cyril Wecht, John Lattimer, Michael Baden, and David Lifton. I also spoke to David Wrone, Jerry Rose, Paul Hoch, David Scheim, Chip Selby, Carl Oglesby, Jim Lesar and several other researchers of the JFK case.

I am working on several projects at the moment that have to do with the case. Jerry Rose has asked me to write a review of Garrison's latest book. Did you have a chance to read it? What was your opinion? I did read it but unfortunately I have never read "Heritage of Stone" so I cannot compare the two. I would appreciate your opinion.

I am also working on two other articles for The Third Decade. The first is on the discrepancies involving the President's brain, such as the extent of the damage, the weight, etc. I believe the Parkland doctors did see damage to the occipital region of the head, but perhaps did not see the cerebellum. The only difference between the cerebellum and the neighboring brain matter is a slight difference in the color. One is a lighter shade of grey and with all the blood and brain matter present it would be very difficult to distinguish. However, this does not present a problem because they still saw a wound in that region of the skull and that is what is important. I find it hard to believe that all of the Parkland staff saw a



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wound that was not there. But I do not believe Lifton's theory of reconstruction. It just was not scientifically possible to do and the time frame was too small anyway. I am leaning towards Robert Grodin's theory of photographic forgery. If we compare the x-rays and photographs we can see the anomalies. The x-rays show facial damage, but there was none at all according to the photographs. It would be interesting if someday the President's body was exhumed and we could examine the actual damage to the skull, maybe that is the only way to prove it.

As to the weight of the brain, I have come across some information that explains the large size. The autopsy report stated the brain weighed 1500 grams. A normal adult brain weighs about 1400 grams. You stated, if I remember correctly, that most of the right hemisphere was destroyed. Even Dr. Lattimer says that 70% of the right hemisphere was gone. Robert Grodin says 70%-80% was destroyed with 40% of the whole brain missing. Then we have the two extremes: Dr. Baden said that very little of the brain was missing and Paul O'Connor, of Lifton fame, says there was no brain at all. I don't know how Baden and O'Connor fit in with the scenario but I figure about 70% of the right hemisphere was either missing or in pieces within the cranium. but then how could the brain weigh 1500g? At most it should have been 950g. I spoke to a doctor I know in Rochester who deals with head injuries and had also been in the military and seen gunshot wounds from battle as well. Once the brain is struck it begins to swell. Kennedy was still alive, at least technically for about twenty minutes, that is his blood was still flowing and so on. Also, the doctors hooked him to intravenous equipment to further support his functions. This doctor I know said it wouldn't be at all surprised if a brain, even as destroyed as this one was, weighed 1500g because of the swelling. I don't know if you are already familiar with this or not and I am still investigating it further. If you have any information on this theory, please let me know.

While I was in England I investigated into the whereabouts of nurse Diana Bowron. I went to her home town of Buxton which is about 200 miles north of London. After searching through voter registration records I was able to match the names of neighbors who lived there when she did and are still residing in Buxton today. I went to her former home and spoke to the couple living there today. They are the same ones who bought the house



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from Ms. Bowron's parents 17 years ago. Unfortunately, ^{WAS SHE} both of her parents are deceased and she was an only child. They remember her well but did not know her exact whereabouts. I also spoke to several other people who were friends of the family. No one knew her exact location but I came up with bits and pieces that might help me to locate her. All of them remembered vividly that she was involved in the Kennedy assassination. Her parents used to talk about it often with their friends. It seems she is possibly somewhere in Africa. I do know that she did marry but she did not marry a fellow Englishman nor did they marry in England. I am presently following up on several leads and have two foreign governments helping me. If you know anything about where she might be, any rumors or anything, please let me know. It would prove very interesting to speak with her today, especially about the Lifton theories.

My next major project is on the legalities of the case against Oswald. Would the evidence have stood up in court? Were the lineups impartial? Would the medical evidence been admissible? These are all questions I will attempt to answer. I hope to speak with as many of the Dallas Police Officers that were present that weekend as possible. This will be my main project over the next three years of law school (I am attending Albany Law School). I am compiling a list of those persons I need to talk to and will begin the location process shortly. Any advice would be appreciated.

What do you know of Oswald's dealings with the Albert Schweitzer (I think I'm spelling it wrong, I'm writing this letter from off the top of my head) College of Switzerland? Do you have any information on it? I have already sent in an FOIA request to both the FBI and the CIA on Oswald's connection to this college. The CIA has acknowledged me and stated that it would cost about \$100 to complete the search. I do not mind spending the money if something worthwhile might surface. What do you think? The FBI has not replied yet. Do you know anything about Hoover's attempts to infiltrate the CIA? I am very interested in Oswald's possible intelligence connections. Is there any area that has not been thoroughly investigated that you think might be worthwhile to look into?

If you want to contact me I can be reached at (518) 426-1122 during the evenings or at (518) 455-5456 during the day. Since I



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plan to move to another apartment shortly I have ~~been telling~~ ^{been} telling people to write to my parents home which is located at 16 Birchwood Park Court Jericho, New York 11753. They will forward all my mail.

I hope all is well. I look forward to hearing from you shortly. Give my regards to your wife. All the best.

Respectfully,

Mark S. Zaid