

Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701  
9/3/72

Dear Dr. Morgan,

In answer to my letter of 9/26, you typed on the bottom a tanks for the explanations I made to you and, "As I indicated in my letter of the 24th, I did not speak from a written manuscript in Denver. My talk was based wholly upon the report written for the Attorney General in 1968."

From the first I have been trying to do two things, learn what you did say and learn where there was error in reporting what you did say. This latest response in no way makes either possible.

It is the custom at such meetings to have transcripts made, for publication and for the press. Whether or not you spoke from a written text really does not address your ability to supply me with a copy of your words if this meeting followed the usual procedures and is, as I would certainly hope, you have the desire. This is what I would still prefer. I respectfully renew my request.

This single Associated Press report of your speech obtained infinitely wider distribution than the text of your official report, which wasn't even printed. It was mimeographed by the Department of Justice and then, later, filed in court.

If there is error in this Associated Press story, quite obviously, assuming the accuracy of the original report, ~~xxxxxxx~~ an infinitely larger number of people have been misinformed. I may be one, and I am writing on the subject. I do not want anything I write to be erroneous in any way, even by inference. Thus I seek what I believe you can provide, your exact words. I want not to be dependant upon any second-hand account, particularly when you inform me it is garbled.

I do hope you can understand this, as I would hope you would prefer it to be this way.

In all of this correspondence, you have not indicated where you were misquoted or garbled. Thus I have no way of knowing even this. Your saying that what you said was "based" on the report isn't even a clue to this except with respect to one number. Unless this is the sole error in the reporting, then to date you have told me nothing except that the reporting was not accurate. This is not a basis for responsible writing on such a subject.

If you will not undertake to provide a copy of your remarks as the host organization usually provides them, then at the very least I still want to know where your remarks were not faithfully represented. I would, of course, prefer this in your accurate representation, but if you are unwilling to do that, then may I respectfully ask that you underscore the errors in the enclosed copies of news stories and return them to me so that I may at least know what you say is erroneous?

One is the Washington Post story to which I first referred. Since then I have been sent the AP account from the Miami Herald of the same date, the second enclosure.

If you would like a copy of either or both for your files, I will provide you with what you would like. This Miami Herald copy is not suited for recopying.

I do hope you will be as helpful as you can in this matter. I do not want my writing to reflect that after you got international attention on what you claim is error you evaded correcting that error.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Harold Weisberg  
Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701  
August 26, 1972

Dear Dr. Morgan,

Thank you for your prompt answer to my letter of the 20th.

In your letter of the 24th you say what I can understand, that "the newspaper garbled my discussion rather badly." A certain amount of this is often inevitable. That is why I asked for a copy of your remarks and of any others you have made on the subject. I would still appreciate them.

Perhaps from my earlier experience as a reporter I can give you an insight into what seems to perplex you, "why the press picked up my talk as a news item at this time." You offer the opinion, "Apparently they have nothing better to print."

When you became a member of that 1968 "special group" you also became a participant in an important historical event. You are also a man of eminent scientific credentials. The assassination of a President is a major event, especially one in which so much doubt lingers. Thus any comment by an authority is, by normal standards of American journalism, legitimate news.

To the best of my knowledge, your earlier remarks on this subject were either not reported in the newspapers or were not picked up by the major media. Thus it appeared to the reporter that this was an entirely new comment. Even if your earlier talks had been reported in the east, they may have been unknown in Denver. And under some circumstances, even the repetition of what was said earlier is, by normal standards, still regarded as news. You will find frequent illustrations in current reporting of political remarks. You do qualify as an authentic expert. I follow this subject more closely than any reporter can. I can recall no occasion on which you or any member of that 1968 group ever said, explicitly, that the autopsy doctors or the Warren Commission made any kind of error. Unless this is one of the garbled quotations, by normal news standards that comment alone qualified as legitimate news. What is surprising to me is not that your talk was regarded as news but that it got as little attention as it seems to have.

Without your saying that your remarks were garbled in reporting, I was aware of at least one error in the story. The Post seems to have condensed an Associated Press story, in itself a mechanism that can contribute to error without that being the intent of the rewrite man. There are internal indications of haste on his part, one example being omission of the audience you addressed. Thus I think you can also understand why I ask for your remarks as you made them, not as they were reported.

Sincerely,



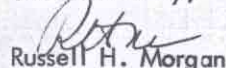
Harold Weisberg

8/29/72

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Thank you for your comments. As I indicated in my letter of the 20th, I did not speak from a written manuscript in Denver. My talk was based wholly upon the report written for the Attorney General in 1968.

Yours sincerely,



Russell H. Morgan