

HR, RB, JW.

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

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August 24, 1972

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 8
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Thank you for your letter of August 20 concerning the JFK Assassination. The material in The Washington Post, to which you referred, reported upon a talk I gave in Denver last week.

I am afraid that the newspaper garbled my discussion rather badly. Actually, as I have done on several occasions since 1968, I was simply reporting upon the findings of the special group, of which I was a member, who examined the record for Attorney General Clark in the early part of 1968. A report on these findings was made public at that time.

I do not know why the press picked up my talk as a news item at this time. Apparently they have nothing better to print.

Yours sincerely,



Russell H. Morgan, M.D.
Dean of Medical Faculty

RHM:mdc