

Dear Robert,

1/28/80

Letters like yours of the 25th mean much to me. I do appreciate them and I thank you sincerely for taking that extra time, along with your expression of disappointment and perhaps frustration.

It is not easy to respond to such letters, not if one is to be honest.

Perfection is not a state of man or of man's government. My recollection of history retrieves no exception.

With this in mind, while I could hardly suggest that you jump for joy, I do suggest that despite the great disappointments and the justifications for them it is not as bleak - comparatively - as it may first appear to be.

The terrible crime and the monstrous official and unofficial failings in its wake are terrible and painful tragedies. Yet the consequences were not all negative. Look how many people learned as they otherwise could not have learned of the realities of government and its lackeys. And, of course, if it were not for the hard fight to obtain and release information and the ultimately successful overturning of so much official corruption in one of my earliest suits we'd not have the Freedom of Information Act as we know it, with all that has meant. None of the FBI's and CIA's files, with their incredible disclosures, would have come to pass. I am sure I need not recount the nature of these exposures to you. Think about them and their significance.

Rather than curtailing these dishonesties, the executive agencies have invented new and more despicable ones as they carry on as they did before. It is not unlikely that the Act will be severely restricted now, particularly because of the temper of the time. But the good will not be undone and more will yet flow.

I still face these official lies in court, official misleading and misinforming of the courts that is a special subversion and a great danger to the independence of the judiciary. And I still oppose it with all the vigor I can. In the early morning I begin the newest effort. What ever its immediate and it will make a useful, permanent record for the future, however little attention it may now receive.

This is what one must do. Without it we have nothing but Hitlers and Stalins.

It is gratifying that you recall the speech Jim Lesar read for me at NYU. (And don't forget all the unpaid work he has done in these FOIA suits.) It is not gratifying that what followed could be seen and predicted as clearly and accurately. Even to what those identified by name and no less identified if not named would do and the consequences.

It also is not easy in speaking honestly to young adults on the campus, in recounting the unspeakable dishonesties of the government that for good or ill is the teacher of us all, not to dispirit those young minds. However, what I say is true. There is no country in the world of which I know in which I could have done what I have done.

Even England and Canada have Official Secrets Acts.

So I thank you and I encourage you not to be without hope. We move ever forward, as history shows, even if from time to time we managed to fall backward somewhat.

Oswald in New Orleans is out of print. I did not do the printing so I could not reprint it. However, unless they are all gone, the New York and Brooklyn libraries did have them, I'm pretty sure. Keep looking in the second-hand bookstores. If you find one in time you'll be able to sell it for a considerable amount from the reports reaching me.

No complaint about my health. If it is not what I'd like it to be and absent magic will not be I nonetheless make out fairly well. That I tire more easily cannot be entirely attributed to illness because in 10 weeks I'll be 67. Many of these were hard years, no doubt with their toll. But I am fairly active, still get an early start every day and work with some efficiency and success.

In response to your question about the FOIA work, it takes and wastes an extraordinary amount of time, enough to have precluded further writing. I can't predict how much more I'll be able to get but I can report getting going on a quarter of a million pages of records all of which will now forever be available to the people.

If I do not predict that there will be some major breakthrough, and I certainly predict nothing good for the DJ's coming limited re-investigation, again it is not hopeless unless one hopes for the completely impossible.

Young people should always hope and strive for the impossible and never believe that anything is impossible because in the end nothing is. It may be impossible for one's lifetime but that does not mean forever and younger people have longer in which to see the impossible become the reality.

We have not solved the JFK assassination but is it not worth the effort that despite all the official so-called investigations and all the power and influence behind them so many people have come to understand that those they trusted were unworthy of trust and henceforth can benefit from this knowledge?

Please excuse the typos. It is bedtime and I'm tired. Good luck in your own work, and don't underestimate the value of bringing joy to anyone, no matter how transitory that joy may be.

Sincerely,

January 25, 1980

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

I'm sending you a couple of articles I have collected. I don't expect that there will be much frequency in JFK assassination stories anymore. I feel that way despite this New York Times report saying the Justice Dept. will take on a "limited" (there's a key word for you) investigation of the areas recommended by the Assassination Committee of Congress that still need looking into. I don't have to tell you that I don't hold much hope for this limited investigation. I picked up the paperback edition of the Congressional Committee on the JFK and King Assassination hearings and final conclusions. Of course, they admitted information was withheld from the Warren Commission but in their view the Warren Commission had good intentions and they were not responsible for withheld information (obviously they are not aware of the transcript of the executive meeting of the Warren Commission that you obtained and printed in Whitewash IV). They embraced everything the Warren Report had said except when the acoustical analysis showed there were more than three shots (I don't know if you accept this as good evidence, but it did shake the Congressional Committee) they tacked on perhaps there were two gunman but one was Oswald and he still fired the fatal shots. This way the assassin who got away had fired the shot that missed, so we can at least take comfort in the fact that the Dallas police got the man who fired the fatal shot. What junk! Their big find was the so-called umbrella man who they published a photo of next to a drawing by Robert Cutler showing the umbrella to be a combination gun and flare shooter. They prove this man with the umbrella was not the "signal man" that many had said, so what? They did include sketches from the autopsy photos showing the President's back wound to be just where you had said it would be found (thus ruining the single bullet theory). It's also noticeable that the President's body is held in such a way in the sketch (assuming the photo it is from is authentic) to try and distort where the back wound is on the body. The shoulder is pushed up making the wound appear higher up than it really is.

Since I picked up that paperbook, I have reviewed all of your books on the assassination (except Oswald in New Orleans which I cannot find in any library), rereading and again going through the same disbelief I have always felt in confronting the fact we were lied to and we were lied to on purpose! It's very frustrating and difficult to understand. I'm sure you still feel this way despite years of dealing with it. Here it is 17 years later. We have finally had the Congressional investigation (not the type we had hoped for) and I guess we shouldn't have expected anything more than more apologies. It's a rarity for the government to admit it did anything wrong unless they are forced to by the media. And the media doesn't touch these assassinations that have been "solved" for years. Oh sure, the New York Times will dispatch Nicholas Horrack to Chappaquidick for yet another investigation, but they don't dare put him on the assassination cases. I'm not suggesting that Senator Kennedy should get a free ride on his accident. But the fact is, he either lied or did not lie about why the accident was not reported for ten hours. He did not kill the girl on purpose regardless of what he was doing that night. Why bother finding out where the moon was positioned and what not? I'm not saying the Senator deserves a free ride, but what bothers me is what the press will investigate while it ignores other things of greater importance. The Washington Post will investigate and falsely print a report by Sally Quinn that Brezinski unzipped his fly in front of a female reporter, but they wouldn't dare dignify those accusations of those "scavengers" that there was a conspiracy to murder a U.S. President and a cover-up has continued for 17 years. Besides, that headline pales next to a false accusation of indecent exposure by the

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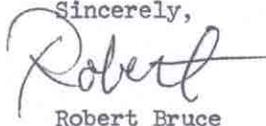
National Security Advisor to the President.

I probably seem to be rambling here, but I have a point. You have spent your life doing something you strongly believe in. Yours is a lonely task and it is a lot of hard work. But it is not without reward. To people like me, you are a maverick. You are one of the few who have really investigated this matter with little of the attention given to the loudmouths who have sold themselves to the public using the assassination for their own purposes. And in the end, these people, the Mark Lanes, have virtually ruined the credibility of any movement to get a real investigation. I personally want to thank you for your work and what it has meant to me. A man who speaks truth is a rare commodity today. I admire what you have done and what you have dedicated your life to. I wanted to say this to you, because I don't guess you hear this type of thing enough. There never was a real investigation of the assassination. Why I don't know. The only thing close to an investigation is your investigation of the cover up. In the end, we may never know the answers to the real questions we have about the assassination. But we may find out why this entire thing was covered up by the government, by our government - a "so called" democracy where this kind of thing could never happen (which is why history rewrote it that way). It's a depressing thing to realize that the government in this country is a sham and it lies as much to us as say the Kremlin lies to the Russian people. It's taken time for me to understand that speech Jim Lesar read at NYU years ago. That was the speech that first compelled me to write to you. And I'm glad I did. I know you will continue your work and that makes me feel a little better. They say you can't fight city hall, but you have and successfully. Unfortunately, the media is responsible for this cover-up as much as anyone because they remain silent. So, for what you have done, I thank you. You have my respect, sir.

How is your health? Last I heard from you, you were unable to get around as much as before your phlebitis. I hope this letter finds you feeling better. I am also curious as to what you have been doing in relations to FOIA work or writing. I guess like myself, you don't hold out much hope for this limited Justice Dept. investigation, but where do we go from here? Other than what you are doing, which is much, there is nowhere to take this case anymore. Everyone else has blown it. Only the dedicated will do anything in good faith. I know you are busy, but I hope when you get a chance you will drop me a line. Once again, I thank you.

I continue my own writing in the comedy field and I am making progress. My comedy does not have the importance of work like yours, but in the world we live in, we need something to laugh about. Best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Bruce". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Robert Bruce

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