

2/14/90

Bill Cheslock
9 Old Tavern Road Box 826
West Chatham, MA 02669

Dear Mr. Cheslock,

Because you teach history and because of my belief in representative society and that if it is to function the people must be truthfully and accurately informed on issues of importance to them, I'm taking a little time this early morning, when in peace and quiet the phone does not ring ^{ring} I love to read for a response to your 12/8 that I hope you will be able to understand and agree with.

You say that Hard Copy and programs like that dispense information. They do not. And most of the books you have read on the JFK assassination do not. Both I regret to say deceive and mislead. Both commercialize the interest in what is exciting and both ~~size~~ present this without regard to truth and fact. With the TV shows it is the lack of ^{the} principal and the interest in ratings and money. With the books this is not the major factor but it is in some instances a real factor.

I think it is important to distinguish between whether or not the JFK assassination was the end product of a conspiracy, which without doubt it was, and who conspired. As an illustration of the latter, one of these conspiracy theorists who is strongly supporting the absolutely impossible tale Ricky White is exploiting, that his father was one of the assassins, responded to my statement that his story was impossible from the fact we do have with this justification, "Well, somebody was on the grassy knoll, wasn't he?" How can that mean that Roscoe White was there? It can't. And this is the type of thinking that underlies much of the conspiracy theorizing, there was a conspiracy, wasn't there? So that proves that my nominee was one of them.

The TV shows often have their own theories. One such is Inside Edition. As soon as they taped me by satellite disproving White's concoction they cut me off after the first thing I said although the staff liked what they edited out and it was further disproof. Recently Hard Copy gave Dave Lifton much attention with his absolutely impossible theory and his claim that most viewers have no knowledge of, to own the subject, to have brought to light all that is known. Compare his book, for example, with Whitewash, which dates to 1965, and see how much that he claims to have originated he found there. Or read the Sibert-O'Neill report on which he bases his commercialization and see for yourself that in the very paragraph in which they erred and reported surgery on the head they also made it clear that the corpse was not in a plastic body bag. (Even his claim to have brought that report to light, I think the word was discovered, is quite false.) If you do not have this report it is in facsimile in Post Mortem, also published long before Lifton, but not its first use. Groden and Livingstone theorize that the autopsy film was faked. If you did not decide that after reading Whitewash you knew the autopsy did not support the official solution, I think you will after reading Post Mortem. So, why in the world would anyone fake a film, with all the great hazards that meant, only to evolve a fake that destroys the story it was supposedly faked to support?

These conspiracy theorists, some without question well-intended, have popularized what just isn't so and thereby have misled and deceived the people, at the same time helping the official mythology endure within the government and the major media. You should see the many illustrations of this in the hundreds of thousands of pages of once-withheld records I got by FOI A litigation. Agencies like the FBI pick and chose from the crap these people produce, prove it is false, and then circulate their reports where it makes a difference to them. And on the side of teaching, those who draw from and depend upon such works deceive and mislead themselves and their students, probably making for even more confusion. The plain and simple truth is that the crime itself was never officially investigated and as a result we have no legitimate leads to follow from the investigation. So, as you will see, mine is a study of how our institutions worked, or didn't work. Best wishes

Hardy

9 Old Tavern Rd. Box 826
West Chatham, MA 02669
December 8, 1990

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, MD. 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I am a student of the assassination of President Kennedy, and have been so since my undergraduate days at Hofstra University. In fact, it was on this campus as a freshman that I heard of the tragic events in Dallas that day. I have read many books on the subject, including your great work, and this is what moved me to write to you.

After just completing the book, High Treason, the authors listed some books which they labeled, "recommended", "important", or "crucial", which your "Post Mortem" is categorized under. I asked around at a few bookstores here on Cape Cod, including Hyannis, and was not successful in finding it.

My question is, how can I purchase a copy of Post Mortem, and what will the price be? If I purchase it directly from you, MR. Weisberg, would you kindly send me the cost of the book, so I can order it? Or, if you send it C O D , I will pay for it when it arrives at my post office. Whatever, I am most anxious to read what you have to say.

It seems that as the years go by, more and more evidence points to the fact that the assassination was indeed a conspiracy. Why the public hasn't demanded the case be reinvestigated is beyond me. Perhaps when programs such as Hard Copy which dispense information once in a while is replaced by Nightline or 20/20, perhaps it will come about. However, researchers like yourself who have toiled for years, will be the real force behind the struggle to find the truth

Thank you, Mr. Weisberg, for your time, and I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,



Bill Cheslock
Faculty member
Dep't. of History
Chatham High School