

5/26/79

Dear Michel,

Your letter of the 11th and three reels have both come. Your letter does not identify the reels and the identification on them do not conform to your earlier promise. One is labelled "Oswald," which means absolutely nothing to me. Another is "Butlenut" or "Butternut," which is utterly meaningless, and the third is virtually an insult, "Penn Jones." What the hell do I care about what that well@intended paranoia looks like when I know him so well? How does any of this equal what you promised, a clear super-8 Zapruder print? (I don't have a super-8 projector, have no need of one, but might use the clear print at college appearances pending return of my excellent 16mm print.

If you set out to compound bad behavior you could hardly come closer to perfecting it. I regard this further waste of my time as an outrage and as further evidence of bad faith.

What remains quite clear in all of this is that you must have made other disposition of my print, most likely by what you have not addressed, my belief that you gave it or sold it to Mark Lane.

The CBC records I've provided refute yours, which in any event do not match your representation of them.

Nobody in his right mind would believe that CBC had this excellent Zapruder print and then did not air it. (I know people who saw that show and I have their reports.)

And who can believe that is CBC has it they would not have send me a copy instead of what they say and I presume can prove is precisely what they got from you?

In addition, if your word might be taken, you have undermined your own credibility by not keeping your initial promise, to copy what you wanted and return it promptly, with the reservations on other people's right observed. You also ignored all my efforts to get even an acknowledgement from you until I involved the kind gentleman in the Washington Embassy.

I have had another medical reverse, a reaction to the injection of a necessary radioactive dye for certain X-raying. It limits some of my activity, including searching files. So I don't know if I told you before but a friend of mine worked on that and on other CBC projects, as he has worked with other foreign crews. I know from him that CBC did not have my Zapruder print.

I want a better solution to this and an end to all the wastes of my little time and an end to self-serving declarations that lack any credibility. When you cannot even send me what you promise you have become totally impossible. If you do not get and return that print I expect you to keep your word on what you would do if you lost or damaged it, pay the cost of replacing it, if I still can. Not that the replacement can be equal to a copy made from the original! As I recall several years ago it would have been \$1,000. You asked me to learn for you and I did and told you.

I have been keeping all parties informed with copies. My lawyer in Washington also has copies. If there is not some satisfactory end to this with reasonable promptness you will have left me no choice other than the disagreeableness I have gone to some trouble to avoid.

Sincerely,

Arnold Weisberg

JEAN-MICHEL CHARLIER  
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SAINT-CLOUD, LE May 11th, 1979

Mr. Harold WEISSBERG  
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U.S.A.

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Dear Harold,

As I promised you, I send you by separate mail, a super 8 copy of the records I used for the editing of my programme about John F. Kennedy.

Unfortunately, it is the only thing I was able to do, considering that I returned you everything you handed me over, either directly, or indirectly, through C.B.C.

I just very much regret that the expedition from C.B.C. does not correspond to what I had handed over to its representatives in Paris.

I am really not responsible for it. I acted according to your instructions.

I remember that, at this time, you let me know that C.B.C. needed these films in order to, eventually, produce a programme about the assassination of John F. Kennedy. This use of your films in Canada has perhaps been the reason of the mistakes concerning their restitution...

I hope you will agree with my proposition of sending you this copy of super 8. I really did all my best.

With my best regards,

  
J.M. CHARLIER