

Wayne Chastain  
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3/25/93

Dear Wayne,

Thanks for the story and your letter, here today. I enclose a check that I hope will cover your costs. On the books, I am the common labor. I make and mail the packages and nothing else, which is a break for me. After I respond, which will take me into tomorrow, I'll give <sup>to</sup> her your letter. Or maybe what we send in response to inquiries will suffice. I read the letter hours ago and have been on mail that needed to go out faster. Almost supertime.

All the books you asked me about are faulted and as a generality you can apply this to all those that theorize conspiracies and solutions. Henry Hurt's would have been a decent recap of the factual books it he had stopped there. He is a fine gentleman of the old south in manner and of the political right. He sought to impose his political beliefs on the second half, which ruins the credibility of the first half, and his Easterling conclusion is ridiculous and utterly impossible. Besides which Easterling was certified crazy.

Which from time to time is true of Livingstone, including right now as he works on High Treason 3 and is making the most outrageous and utterly unfounded accusations against many, including Mary Ferrell and me.

Livingstone added only his untenable theory of the body snatch. *all else was published long before his book.* He knew it was impossible. But once he made it up after a misreading of the Sibert-O'Neill report he hung onto it and probably still does. Aside from other proofs that I had I got from the Military Dist. of Wash. exactly the records he got, they prove he knew he was espousing a proven impossibility and when Livingstone wanted copies the cop working for him stole that and my analysis of the book, a record for history, and apparently sold them to Livingstone. Livingstone thinks so and told someone who told me.

Lane's book is a palpable fraud. The sole issue before the court and jury was of malice. With a number of sources there was no malice. The crap that Lane got into the record from phonies who have no credibility at all says much about that judge. But it is not true, not a bit of it, the woman was making stuff right and left for the tabloid super-market press and that is what Lane used. *all 16070 fake.*

I have no hypotheses and one can't responsibly have one other than for personal thinking. Neither crime was ever officially investigated and there are no leads to be followed.

I think George Lardner, with whom I've had many disagreements, is an excellent reporter. His Outlook story on Stone was understated. And I was slipped a copy of the first draft of <sup>Stone's</sup> his penny-dreadful script. He had to give many away to get what he needed. He lied in saying that the CIA's recruited reporters started the exposes. I did, without leaving home. After writing him two months earlier, without response.

I have always liked Fletch Prouty personally and have believed that when he gave me <sup>copies of</sup> any records they were genuine but he has been inclined to give rather extreme interpretations that fit comfortably with what he believes and wants <sup>but can't say</sup> others to believe. <sup>can't</sup> He is counsel for the farout right and has other connections with Willis Carto and his various enterprises, like the misnamed Liberty lobby, The Spotlight, etc. Lane is what I mean immediately above. <sup>in</sup> (That tired and got a phone call that interrupted me. Carto is Prouty's publisher.

You asked me about Melanson. His books are outrageously bad. I annotated The Murkin Conspiracy for the historical record for Wrono and it is crazy, irresponsible, factually incorrect and he even lies to make a phony case for the well-known <sup>murder</sup> The Fat Man, whose name was public. I gave <sup>Phil</sup> the FBI report which meant that after they gave it to me it was in their public reading room. Name is McDauldton. And no spookery anywhere in the world would use such a way to deliver money. Besides which if Ray had had any money he'd not have been caught. He <sup>is</sup> only \$100 shy of passage to then Rhodesia when he was in Portugal. To get the money to leave <sup>press</sup> Canada he knocked off a whore house. <sup>Melanson's</sup> His JFK book is even worse. When Greenwood asked me to give an opinion as soon as I got a couple of pages into it I gave them what is close to a manuscript for a small book in detailed criticism. With permission to show it to him. <sup>Phil</sup> He has been without comment and Praeger published it instead of Greenwood.

Wayne, these conspiracy theorists are at best childish nuts. Marrs does not even know or understand those he published. They are astoundingly incorrect for so simple a thing. He can't even get what he cribbed straight. <sup>He has never had any interest in fact.</sup>

Roffman had a partial scholarship to the Univ. Fla. law school and had to work to make it. He nonetheless edited the law review and was second in his class. He clerked for a federal appeals court judge in Jacksonville for several years. I rarely hear from him now. When last I did he had been general counsel for Lucas films for a number of years. His is a fine book. He's had nothing to do with the subject since <sup>college</sup> then.

<sup>(No listing of my books)</sup> What you say tells us something about your bookstores. I have kept all my books available, <sup>b</sup> they have always been listed in Books in Print and we have a small ad in it. With my increasing weaknesses and the limitations imposed on me and my age, I'll be 80 4/8, we cannot make normal reprints. But I've kept Whitewash, the first one, and Oswald in New Orleans, available with <sup>durably</sup> substandard bound xeroxes, Whitewash actual size, and Oswald two pages <sup>on</sup> to one side of a sheet about 7 x 7 1/2. The others are the book price, even though <sup>one</sup> the stores and the Dallas outfit sell them at an increase sometimes of six times. The only prices on them we changed is mail. We have to get \$25 for the two zerox editions, plus mail. <sup>my wife</sup> My wife will enclose an invoice, I think listing them and the mail charges. We'll insure them, too.

Well, I did make it by supper call! Thanks and best wishes,

2/27 I'm a bit clearer in the head early in the morning. I hope you can understand that we have to have a policy on the books and that we do not deviate from it. Otherwise we'd risk offending some we charge if they learn there are others we did not charge. With the boycott of them by the media we charge for press copies, have for years. At the same time I give free and unsupervised access to all it cost me so much to get from the government, about a third of a million pages, to all writers. In practise this means those with whom I disagree.

Frame-Up, my book on the King assassination, dating to 1971, remains the only one that is factual. It stacks. It was tested in court, under cross examination, as you may remember. Carroll & Graf have just brought it out as a quality paperback at \$12.95. We still sell the original hardback at \$10 plus insured postage, which adds \$2.50. For most people it will be more convenient to go to their bookstores and take it home. The reason I agreed to this reprint is to make it more widely available. The only difference is that they retitled it Martin Luther King, Jr: the Assassination. It has a new title page, a new cover, and the rest is the original hardback pages photographed for offset reproduction. Page for page identical. To avoid an additional folio in printing they were so cheap they did not even list my other books or give my address so the reader could order them, part of the agreement.

If you see <sup>Unsolved</sup> Mysteries you'll get a notion of the extent of my archive that will become a permanent free archive at local Hood College, no quid pro quo for me. The TV crew photographed part of it, in the basement. ~~There~~ There are about 60 file cabinets plus innumerable boxes in addition to what I never use anymore and have donated already so students can use them. I refused to sell all this for private use, preferring to give it away with assurance of permanent public use. *access.*

I am not able to supervise use of my records in the basement and although we allow unsupervised use of our copier, too, from time to time there are thefts. All my King assassination pictures now are gone! Some on JFK, too.

If you are ever in this area, I hope you can stop off and see what I accumulated, in addition to many file cabinets of my own work.

FOIA was amended in 1974 over official corruption in one of my earlier lawsuits. This is what opened FBI, CIA and similar files. To others as well as to me.

Glad to hear from you! *and thanks, Harold*

In NY FOIA lawsuit for Best wishes,  
King assassination records DJ was able to stonewall for a decade but in the end I got about 80,000 pages, mostly FBI. Includes FBIHQ and Memphis records on the invaders and the sanitation strike. Hood has duplicates of these files. History prof. Gerald McNight wrote excellent, understated scholarly articles on them for The South Atlantic Quarterly. If any institution down there would like copies I'm sure Hood will make them available. It plans ultimately to make all available by some new optical wizardry I do not understand, to all educational institutions. Sylvia Heagher's JFK assassination records are also there and are now being accessioned and will be available for use soon. The librarian, a fine fellow, is Charles Kuhn.

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Sunday, March 21, 1993

Harold Weisberg,  
7627 Old Receiver Road  
Frederick, MD 21702

Dear Harold:

Enclosed is a copy of the MLK story published in today's Sunday edition of the Commercial Appeal.

I know you have expressed less than complimentary opinions about some of the latest assassination books including Phillip Melanson. What do you think about Anthony Summers' CONSPIRACY? Henry Hurt's REASONABLE DOUBT? Lifton's BEST EVIDENCE? Livingston's HIGH TREASON I and II? Marrs' CROSSFIRE? And Lane's PLAUSIBLE DENIAL?

Thirty years after the JFK's assassination, and twenty-five years after the MLK's assassination, have you, Harold Weisberg, formulated a hypothesis as to who killed JFK? MLK? Without ever knowing whoever pulled the triggers in these murders, do you have a working, theoretical model to determine what group or what agency planned the assassinations, etc?

I read in the Washington Post Sunday Supplement two years ago after what you thought about Oliver Stone's then pending JFK movie. What do you think about George Lardner of the Washington Post? Did someone actually slip you a copy of the rough draft of the original JFK script?

I remember almost twenty years ago dining with Jim Lesar and you at a West Memphis Mexican Restaurant during the Ray habeas corpus hearings. We discussed the credibility of Fletcher PROUTY. Jim Lesar thought highly of him. I do not recall what you thought at that time. What do you think about Prouty now? As you know he is getting a bad press. Is it true that he is being sponsored by an anti-semitic financial backer?

Last, but not least, what do you think about G. Robert Blakely.

Let me hear from you.

Best of luck.

  
WAYNE CHASTAIN

PS: I am sorry to hear about some of the health problems you have had to endure during the past twenty years?

PS Two: What happened to Howard Ruffman? I met him in front of your house in the summer of 1971 as he was leaving you after spending several days with you researching some of your documents. I read his book, PRESUMED GUILTY, when it came out in 1975. I believe you said he was going to start law school the following year. Did he ever graduate? Is he practicing law? Teaching? Has he written anything since his 1975 book?

PS Three: I have moved several times since 1975 when I started practicing law. OVER

On one of my moves, I lost possession of a large part of my assassination library including your Whitewash series and your paperback "OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS. Are those books still in print? They do not show up on computerized lists of local bookstore owners. If you have any extra copies, could you send me copies. I will gladly pay for them including postage.

Werner