

The coming Lee Harvey Oswald was Innocent book and Howard Donahue's 5/11/92
"Mortal Error."

Some weeks ago I got a phone call from a man name Brown. He told me he is a former FBI SA and that he had written the book and did not know what to do with it. We talked only briefly then. I suggested that he get in touch with my friend Dick Callen. I know Dick has some kind of relationship with Carroll & Graf, which has been printing much on the JFK assassination and with Publisher's West, which distributes a great number of books. I then wrote Dick telling him I think there is a market for a factual JFK assassination book, particularly now for one that says Oswald is innocent and most of all because Brown is a former SA. Then I got a call from Dick's son David, also a lawyer. He told me the book is well written and they were going to offer Brown a contract.

About day before yesterday Brown phoned to thank me. He told me that he is to deliver the ms., I presume with maybe some corrections or changes, today, that it is scheduled for September publication, that it will be manufactured by July and review copies sent out then, and that C&G told him the initial print will be 10,000 to 30,000 copies.

From our conversation I believe that Brown limited himself to the published evidence and, as a lawyer, used that evidence to make the case for Oswald's innocence. While this is apparent from the first books, none ~~of~~ was organized to make this case out.

Brown is now teaching school in Bergen County, N.J. He told me that St. Martin's has in effect withdrawn Mortal Error, having sold (which I think means no more than has in distribution) about 80,000 copies of the print of more than 100,000, rather large. He said that The President's Book Shop told him that St. Martin's has offered copies at \$1.00 each, another indication that the book is withdrawn, and that the paperback reprint contract has been cancelled.

I presume that some critic wrote or phoned St. Martin's and told them what I told Donahue to begin with, that the Zapruder film alone, in the part after what the Commission published, shows Donahue's theory to be impossible, as other pictures, like Altgens', also do. The well-known fact that the limo did not speed up until after the fatal head shot alone disproves Donahue's irrational notion.

I've also had a few phone calls from a retired Secret Service SA named John Norris. Among other things he told me that Hickey would sue but inquiries made by his family of lawyers indicates they'd need to pay in six figures before the lawyers to whom they spoke would take the case. I mentioned some of this to Jim Lesar when he phoned about something else yesterday. He said he's speak to Dan Alcorn, to see if he'd be willing to take it. When I can I'll write Norris about this. My own belief is that St. Martin's will be willing to settle out of court and that given his emotion^{al}/condition, Hickey would prefer that.