

10/25/94

Paul. T. Evans  
210 W. McMillan St., #6  
Cincinnati, OH 45219-1361,

Dear Mr. Evans,

I hope you will understand my directness in respond to your 10/21 in which you say that you have resumed your research based on the bibliography of High Treason. I refer to it and his other books as High Trashes. He has strange ideas of what is fact and he cannot and does not distinguished between what is fact and what isn't even in his own interviews, which are carefully angled to elicit what he wants to believe and have believed. Thus he draws on the most undependable of sources. Most of the books are of unproven and unprovable theories by these who regard themselves as Perry Masons and lack knowledge of the basic facts that have been established.

You do not indicate the reason for your interest in Thornley other than from his worthless or worse Idle Warriors. I think it was also the title of that pamphlet of his palmed off as a book years ago.

I did get some FBI records on him but they are not now accessible to me. I'm 81, unwell, can't safely use stairs, and all those FOIA records are in my basement.

What I remember of those Thornley records is that he went to the FBI as soon as Oswald's name was mentioned and wanted to be an informer for it. It's New Orleans office had no use for him in that role and did not accept his offer.

Thornley just wanted and wants to be what he is not qualified to be, important.

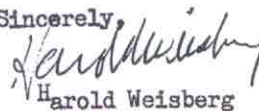
When the FBI had no interest in him and the Warren Commission began work he moved to the Washington area to be near it. He got a service or maintenance job in a nearby Virginia apartment house and when it became clear that he would get no fame, what way left the area. I've forgotten where he then went. I know he wound up in Tampa and when I last heard about him he was pumping gas.

I do not remember hearing of any Ferrie diary. I know the detectives who made the search under the search warrant and they made no mention of it.

Thanks for the offer of the tape but I have no interest in it. There were as I recall two arrests immediately after the assassination that show could have referred to. One was on the railroad tracks not far from the Plaza and the other was at a gas station.

I think that this arrest interest of yours is a waste of time and can yield nothing of any real value in learning anything about the assassination. That Livingstone indicates that it could be "important" reflects what I say above about him and his books. He is actually ignorant of the established fact. You'll see if he "surfaces" anything that can have any real meaning.

Sincerely,

  
Harold Weisberg

Now comes the question I should have started this letter with: On the 30th anniversary of the murder, our local PBS television station, WCET-TV, Channel 48, broadcast NBC News's original coverage of the assassination for six hours, in "real time." (In other words, if David Brinkley looked at a studio clock and said, "It's now almost 4 o'clock Washington time," that is what time it was at that moment.) Needless to say, I videotaped this event--consisting mainly of news and information by Frank McGee, Chet Huntley, and Bill Ryan. The broadcast began at 1:53 p.m. EST, and not 10 minutes into it, NBC switched to a reporter at WBAP-TV in Fort Worth named Charles Murphy, who announced that "Dallas police have taken a young man into custody." He was described as "neatly dressed" and "vehemently protesting his innocence, and says he has witnesses to prove that he is innocent." This is too soon for the person arrested to be Lee Harvey Oswald. I have not heard of this person before or since the broadcast I am describing.

Should you desire, I can make an audio tape of this part of the broadcast for you--unfortunately, I lack the equipment to copy the video tape, and it is one cassette I do not loan. Have you any information about this arrest? Later on, the Fort Worth newscaster mentions that "the car wanted in the assassination of President Kennedy has been picked up in Fort Worth", something which was news to me as well.

I mentioned this in a letter to Harrison Livingstone over the summer, and his reply, in a letter from Baltimore dated 26 July, he said, "It will take me awhile to surface what this is about, but your possession of the tape could be important in that respect."

Please write to me at the above address. I do plan to purchase Case Open very shortly, and hope that it will relegate Posner's book to the fiction section of the bookstore. (I have not yet bought Case Closed; I will only buy it second-hand, because then no royalties would go to Posner from me.)

I thank you for plowing through this ambiguous letter, and I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely yours,

*Paul T. Evans*

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