

Dear Ms. G.,

8/15/78

A few hasty words before supper. Please excuse the typos. And thanks for telling me you expected no response.

Re Dell with my books and Howard Roffman's experiences with a publisher who would not fill mail orders: I can give you letters to which I responded by saying the books were out of print when they were not. In fact Dell has not yet reverted the rights to me. They demanded a waiver as a precondition.

I'm not surprised that the works critical of the Commission sold better. This reflects popular attitudes. From the first, too. If so much crap had not poured off the presses and publishers had not spent most effort on trifling works the sales would have been greater. There was disillusionment among the sophisticated. But I am surprised that there was a sales high point in the mid-70s rather than the late 60s, my experience.

Thanks for speaking to your library.

I agree with you about Lane. I think you understate his effectiveness. He has had much time to develop a real shaman approach and has created a virtual cult. He is not the only one. Those of the Assassination Information Bureau, until about two years ago, ripped the mind off quite excitingly. Both, intentionally and otherwise, foreclosed almost all others. And with the students increasingly selecting programs the more sober-minded faculty also was kept out of these selections.

The first two days of Assassins committee hearings were, I think, effective if the vehicle for misinformation detection of which requires subject expertise.

Maybe I'm wrong but I think you underestimate the amount of continuing if not articulated interest. Would you amend "uppermost in people's contemplation" to something like in the front of the mind again?

If you do assess the irresponsible, I strongly encourage contact with Prof. Wrono. He has a copy of the uncorrected draft of a speech I was to have made at NYU law school the end of 4/75, when I was taken with pneumonia and pleurisy. I could not cut and edit. It was read for me. His own work is more important to you on this and he has the one excellent bibliography.

It was in the late 60s that I had few "liberal" audiences. I have not thought this through, except in universality of subject interest. However, it may have been the effectiveness of Lane's lecture bureau, which creamed the "liberal" market.

I'm not surprised at your finding people think JFK is still alive. I am surprised at your not coming across the once widespread belief that Bobby had something to do with the investigation because he was AG. Actually, he was divorced from it.

I agree with your belief that the assassination stimulated interest in JFK, that and the image he succeeded in projecting. I am inclined to believe that perceptions of him had undergone great change in the year before he was killed.

The campaign against FOIA is close to two years old. We can detect its influence in some cases. So we spend more of the time we do not have to perfect the records in those cases, on the chance the system is permitted to work.

Good luck in your project. I believe it is worthwhile and that you are going about it the right way.

Best wishes,

August 10, 1978

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 12
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Dear Mr. Weisberg,

Many thanks for your speedy reply to my previous letter. I thought I had best comment on some of the suggestions that you had offered-please don't feel as though you need reply to this note. I trust that I will be in touch with you again in the future, and I am most sympathetic to your husbanding your time and energy for your own projects.

First, with regard to Dell publications. They are one of the publishers that I have not yet heard from, and I plan to again in the near future send another follow-up letter. In my letters to publishers, I have included a brief note informing them that if they wish to keep the titles of books ~~with~~ the author's name, or the publisher's name anonymous, I would abide by that decision. Hence, some of the publishers who have replied have requested that I not state in any publications how many copies of an edition were sold, but they made the information available to me. I am in the process of constructing some tables which would give readers an idea of the extent of the dissemination of material about the JFK assassination.

Frankly, I have been amazed by the responses that publishers have sent me. I was pretty confident given the number of books involved, that JFK related material sold quite well. In fact, the numbers that have been sent to me thus far have greatly exceeded my expectations. The high point for sales appears to have been in the mid-70's, and the late 60's. Comparing the pro-Warren Report studies and the critical works, the critical works have been more favorably received. In short- they swamped the pro-Warren Report studies.

I'm sorry that you have had as much difficulty as you have apparently had selling your books. In the Univ. of Mo. library, I was surprised some time ago to find that they only had one copy of Whitewash, and none of the succeeding works. I have turned over your flyer to them with a request to purchase the additional volumes you have written; so I expect that shortly you will receive an order from their acquisition office. (As an aside- the library in general here has been remarkably bereft of studies dealing with the Kennedy assassination and conspiracy theories. In my discussions with some library officials, some noted that they did not consider this to be an important topic for extensive acquisition.) Some time ago, the campus speakers committee invited Mark Lane to speak here, and the bookstores on campus did a lively business in the JFK books. I have concluded that the assassination topic can be made salient if people are first aroused by a dynamic speaker. (Whatever one may think about the accuracy of Mr. Lane's contentions, he does have a formidable style in presenting his ideas.)

Re., your comment about the House Assassinations Comm., I expect that with the increased public awareness about their hearings, and greater news diffusion about the material they are coming across, the JFK, and MKL assassinations will again become uppermost in people's contemplations about politics. (That may be a little optimistic- if not uppermost, certainly an important consideration.)

You are quite right in observing that "the irresponsible" may be come a consideration in this study. In fact, at the present time, I am working on a survey to be mailed to public speakers on the Kennedy assassination. Hopefully I shall be able to get some "fix" on what it is that is being communicated to the American people. I am also working on a mail survey to be distributed to

be distributed to the general public. That survey will tap feelings about the Warren Commission, JFK, various conspiracy theories, the amount of reading that people have done on the assassination, the saliency of the House Assassination Comm hearings, whether or not they have heard radio programs, seen TV programs on the assassination.

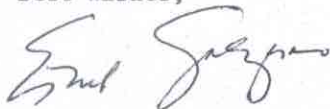
I was surprised by your comment that most of the audiences you have spoken to were not "liberal." I had expected this to be the case in the mid- and late 60's but not now. Thanks for that insight. You might find it interesting to know that in the extensive interviewing that I have done here in Columbia, I was shocked to find that many people do not believe that JFK is dead. Of the 44 lengthy interviews I did, 4 persons said that they were not convinced that JFK was dead. Two of these people lived in the same Senior Citizens complex, the other two were younger men, who were blue collar labors. I include the note "blue-collar" as I fear that such a disposition may be distinctive by class. These two men were however, ardent admirers of Kennedy, and believed that he was ordered assassinated by business interest in the U.S. Their reason for believing he was still alive may be psychologically a reflection of their wish that he still be alive.

Again, my thanks for the comment about Roffman's book. I myself had not seen as reference to it, but I shall try to track it down. I am somewhat curious however, as to why a publisher would be reluctant to accept a mail order on a book.

For the time being, that is about all I can add regarding the state of my research. (Just remembered something.) I have also written to publishers of magazines that featured cover stories, or banner promotions on the cover of their magazines for JFK assassination stories. The responses from these magazines is similar to observations about book sales. Those magazines which featured JFK's or MLK's picture on the front, or ran a logo promoting a story on the assassination showed remarkable over-the-counter sales compared to preceding and subsequent weeks over-the-counter sales. Some of my colleagues have been rather cynical about the implications of this data- noting that the American people are in general titillated by anything that has to do with the Kennedy's. I am personally of the belief that they have the causality of such interest mixed up. In other words, I believe the assassination stimulated interest in the Kennedy's, rather than the other way around. (Or, at least there is some collinearity involved- they help each other.)

Continued good luck with your efforts regarding Freedom of Info Act. I noticed in this evening's newspaper, that some senators have expressed misgivings about the latitude of the availability of government documents, and abuses of this privilege. I expect that you may be in for some rough going ahead if there are efforts to curtail the scope of that legislation. Hopefully these legislators will have the presence of mind not to allow the abuses of the few stand in the way of continued access to evidence of government malfeasance. (If it sounds as if I am somewhat critical of government conduct in the past- I am, but I genuinely believe that the evidence is so compelling in that regard, one would have to be blind not to see it. I am also of the belief that there is a great need for this information to be made available if there is ever to be an expiation of like behavior in government agencies.)

Best Wishes,



Ethel Galzerano