

Dear Gerry,

1/6/92

This hasty, early-morning response to your 12/30 in the few moments before I leave for walking therapy, then blood-testing, then physical therapy. I've been staying quite busy keeping up with and answering questions about Oliver Stone and his movie. Today two people from the German/Dutch edition of Penthouse are coming in it!

I don't mind at all that you referred to the reporter to what I was quoted on. I'm sorry that the papers there were so unprofessional, as too many are.

You refer to how Garrison looks in the film. I have heard that his illness is of the heart. I have no details. He had to retire at 70 and retired four months early because of his health. He was hospitalized for a while this past summer.

Sorry you did not have the break that Dave and Jerry had and both used. Dave will be here some time after the 15th and before the 20th and we look forward to his coming.

Thanks for the dust-jacket xerox. I'll add it to my King file.

While I think they make little if any difference even if the paper printed your letter, there are a few mistakes in it. The FBI's official copy of the Zapruder film was made from a Secret Service copy and is in color. When TIME/LIFE made slides for the Commission, they were in color and made from the original.

When the FBI made copies for the Commission's publication, because that would be black and white, it either made black and white prints or that was done at the Printing Office or it was not necessary because the offset ~~xxxxx~~ cameras could take color and produce non-color prints from which printing is done.

I'm gathering a large file on Stone and his movie but the recent stuff adds nothing to what had appeared earlier other than reviews and comment on the film.

I let this stay in the typewriter in the event I thought of something to add when I returned but I did not get a chance because the Germans got here early. They left before noon today, 1/7, and it was a visit we enjoyed because they were so nice and friendly. The man who is to write the story said he'd have to see the film before he returned, after supper he did, and he said at breakfast this morning that he thought it was a bad job as a film and he had a list of reasons quite separate from anything we talked about. They said there were only about 30 people, which surprised me. They reflected a wide interest and my impression is that that edition of Penthouse will not write favorably about either Stone or this movie.

Best to you all,

*Handwritten signature*

Dear Harold,

Dec. 30, 1991

Since Stone's movie blew into town roughly two weeks ago I have been interviewed by two local papers and I just agreed to do a radio call in show next week. I spent a full two hours talking to the reporter for the Spartanburg paper, trying to educate her in addition to making my position on Stone's film as clear as possible. I hope you don't mind, but I called her attention to a statement you made at the end of a letter you wrote to the Washington Post this past July in which you emphasized how Stone's film will have the effect of undermining legitimate criticism of the official mythology, as you put it. What came out in the paper, despite a front page billing, was a travesty. I was especially dismayed at being lumped together with two local retired FBI "experts". You remember old Fletcher Thompson who took credit for spearheading the investigation at Hoover's behest. I told this reporter this guy is telling a whooper, but it apparently had no effect. I am enclosing my response to this mess of an article. I wrote it on the very day the article came out; it has not been printed yet and I plan to raise a stink if it is not published in a couple days.

I did go see the film this past weekend. The film is really too long. By the time some of the more credible stuff is presented at the very end you are waiting for it to end. From all you have told me of Garrison and the nature of his "investigation", Kevin Costner's portrayal bears no relation to reality. Garrison is presented as a hero crusading against all odds, and perhaps even more disturbing the film leaves the distinct impression that Clay Shaw was guilty. I was also dismayed (and a bit amused, I must confess) with the conspiracy soliloquy of "Mr. X", better known as Col. Fletcher Prouty, especially the part about being sent to the South Pole to get him out of the way so he would not foul up their plans for the assassination. All in all, even holding aside criticism of its factual basis, I don't believe it was that good a film. However, my sense is that the audience was impressed by it. I noticed a lot of people sort of shaking their heads as the credits were being shown on the screen. Just a footnote: Garrison's cameo appearances as Earl Warren were dreadful -- he looked just awful and weak.

Currently I am up to my ears in preparing for my special course on Malcolm X and King. I think your comment about Malcolm X's sexism when he was with the Black Muslims is right on target, but he did change. You might be interested to know that James Cone also criticizes Malcolm X on that score. But as with Cone, I am deeply impressed by Malcolm X's honesty, even though misguided at times. I am also enclosing a copy of the cover of one of the books by the Vietnamese Buddhist monk, Nhat Hanh, in which he mentions King's nomination of him for the Nobel Peace Prize.

I am sure you are probably busy these days too. I hope you and Lillian had a good holiday and will have a prosperous and healthful New Year.

Best Wishes,



To the editor:

Dec. 26, 1991

I would like to try to clarify a few things about a recent article on Oliver Stone's new movie, "JFK", in which I was featured along with two local former FBI "experts". As the article stated: "Mr Thompson and Mr. Hughes believe that Oswald acted alone because nothing tangible has been presented to prove otherwise." It should also be noted, however, that a major reason for this is that the FBI was not interested in looking for any tangible evidence other than evidence against Oswald. The FBI "probe" was a joke. They did not even bother to interview the Dallas police officers who rode in the motorcade and were eyewitnesses to the shooting. Mr. Thompson and Mr. Hughes are experts on nothing. Mr. Hughes reference to the movie of the assassination being in black and white shows his ignorance. The FBI copy of the famous Zapruder film (which was also used by the Warren Commission) was an indistinct, black and white copy of the original color film. They could have had access to the original color film if they wanted, but they did not, as the FBI was uninterested in most of the photographs and films taken at the time of the assassination.

It is true that I am critical of Oliver Stone's movie, but as I stated quite explicitly to Ms. Conley during our interview, I am even more critical of our government, which in lying to the American people opened the door for all the Garrisons and Stones, etc. to sensationalize and make a buck off this tragedy.

Sincerely,



Dr. Gerald Ginocchio