

ans by phone 8/4/96

July 28, 1996

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Maryland 21702

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Having just completed your book Case Open and just started reading Never Again!, it seems rather obvious that the FBI was 100% correct when they stated in open court that no one knows more about the assassination of President Kennedy than you do!

I was overjoyed to learn that I can purchase copies of your previous books (of course, I've known about your Whitewash series and other books for many years, but was never able to find anyone who knew where I could purchase them. Having read Case Open, now I know why!) After speaking to your lovely wife this afternoon, I have enclosed a check for \$103.95 for copies of the following books:

Whitewash: The report on the Warren Report
Whitewash II: The FBI-Secret Service Coverup
Photographic Whitewash: Suppressed Kennedy Assassination Pictures
Oswald in New Orleans: Case for Conspiracy with the CIA
Whitewash IV: JFK Top Secret Assassination Transcript
Post Mortem: JFK Assassination Coverup Smashed
Frame-Up

I've been researching the assassination of President Kennedy for approximately 12 years now. My interest in this subject began during my first year at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City, where I studied and eventually obtained my Forensic Science degree. Early on in my studies, I noticed that many of the authors who wrote on this subject seemed to have some sort of political agenda or self interest in their writing. Once I discovered this, I promised myself that I would only concentrate my efforts on the physical evidence in this case. I would not waste my time trying to decide whether the Mafia, the Cubans or some rogue element of the CIA had assassinated our President. I think this is where many authors have flawed in their books. In one chapter they would discuss autopsy evidence and in the next, they would use rumor,

speculation and heresay in an attempt to prove their theory of who had assassinated the President.

As of this writing, I have read 162 books on this subject and out of those 162, only you have been able to stay focused on the physical evidence in this case without distorting it! Also, you seem to be one of only a few assassination researchers who doesn't have some sort of political agenda/self interest!

I have not been to Dallas (though I am planning a trip there within the next few months) and I regret to report that I have not made any groundbreaking discoveries, but I have made an observation that I wanted to bring to your attention. I apologize if my observation has already been covered in one of your books that I have not yet read.

Early on in my studies, I learned that President Kennedy wore a back brace as a result of a back injury he suffered during World War II. Many of the books I have read also mentioned the fact that President Kennedy was wearing a back brace the day he was assassinated. Prior to April 1993, none of the books I had read mentioned anything further than that about the back brace. I was curious about this and have always kept this in the back of my mind.

In March 1992, I learned that Dr. Charles A. Crenshaw had just completed a book on the assassination entitled JFK: Conspiracy of Silence. He was scheduled to appear on the television tabloid "A Current Affair" that night, so I decided to watch his interview. During this interview, Dr. Crenshaw showed photographs of the Parkland Hospital Emergency Room shortly after the President had expired. Dr. Crenshaw pointed out and I immediately noticed that President Kennedy's back brace was sitting upright on a table in the background of one these photographs. This was the first time I had actually seen a picture or photograph of this back brace. These photographs were all black and white and if I remember correctly, the back brace itself was white in color. I also remember that this photograph showed what would be the back side (rather than the front or chest side) of this back brace. To this day, I am certain of only one thing, the back brace had absolutely no bullet holes in it.

Several questions immediately raced through my mind: 1) Where was this back brace now? 2) Where did Dr. Crenshaw obtain these photographs from (I thought Dr. Crenshaw mentioned during this interview that these photographs belonged to Parkland Hospital's archives, but I'm not so sure anymore)? Since autopsy photographs clearly showed a bullet hole in President Kennedy's back below the shoulder line (at approximately the 3rd thoracic vertebra), why didn't this back brace contain any bullet holes? Of course, in my last question I was making an assumption (a terrible thing to do when you're a scientist!) that the back brace that

President Kennedy was wearing would have covered the area of the back where he was shot.

Unfortunately, I hadn't videotaped this broadcast. That same evening, I called the "A Current Affair" offices in New York City and tried to convince the show's producer to provide me with a copy of the videotape for this program. The producer was not willing to provide me with a copy.

That following week, I rushed to Barnes and Noble bookstore and purchased a copy of Dr. Crenshaw's book, which was co-authored by Jens Hansen and J. Gary Shaw. I was a little disappointed to see that the first edition of this book had been published in paperback. Anyhow, I must have read the whole book within 3 hours. While I wasn't overly impressed with the content of this book, I did note this paragraph about President Kennedy's back brace on page 81:

"After we had cut away his suit pants, we un-strapped his back brace and slung it to the wall and out of the way. When the back brace landed on the floor, it remained upright on its side. During World War II, the President had injured his back in a PT-boat accident, requiring the steel harness that became a permanent part of his attire".

Of all the books I have read to date, this one has said the most about President Kennedy's back brace. I then turned to the photograph section of the book and was disappointed to see that this book did not contain the same picture of the emergency room that had been shown on "A Current Affair". There was however a photograph of Trauma Room 1 with the following caption about it:

"Trauma Room 1 as it appeared at the time of the President's death. The contents of this room, including the tile from the floor and walls, are now stored in the National Archives in Fort Worth, Texas (Credit: Parkland Hospital)"

Unfortunately, President Kennedy's back brace is not pictured in this photograph, but this caption might lead you to believe that this back brace may be at the National Archives in Fort Worth, Texas.

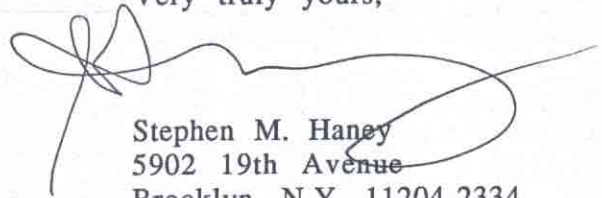
Mr. Weisberg, can you clarify this matter for me? Am I mistaken in my observations here? Do you know where President Kennedy's back brace is located? If so, have you seen it?

While it might not have been common knowledge in 1964 that President Kennedy wore a back brace, I would think that the Warren Commission would have be interested in lining up the bullet holes from President Kennedy's body, his dress shirt, his back brace and his suit jacket.

I'd rather not speculate on why the Warren Commission would move the back wound higher than it actually was per the autopsy photographs. I'd appreciate any input you could provide here.

Well, I've taken up way too much of your time. I apologize for rambling on. I just want to personally thank you for all of the work you have done in investigating the assassination of our late President. I know that this journey has taken its toll on your health and on your wallet, but I know that this has been a labor of love for you and that you'd do it all again!

Very truly yours,



Stephen M. Haney
5902 19th Avenue
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11204-2334
(718)-236-5080 (Home)
(800)-227-9887 (Work)

*1133 Avenue of the Americas
18th floor 10036*

P.S. - If you plan on responding to my letter and would rather not write, please feel free to call me toll free at work. I spend most of my time there.