

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Rd.
Frederick, MD 21702

Mr. Chuck Lakin
The Oryx Press
4041 North Central at Indian School Road
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Dear Mr. Lakin,

I appreciate letters like yours. At 81 and limited in what I'm able to do I continue, as best I can, to perfect the record for history. NEVER AGAIN!, which could easily have been published before the middle of last year, is for practical purposes being suppressed. I've two more books, all different, for the record for history, being re-typed and I'm close to the end of a third one. So when I spend all the time I can in this effort, I hope you will not mind that I do not respond in full.

I do caution you not to ^acept as fact what seems to be in other books without ample independent confirmation.

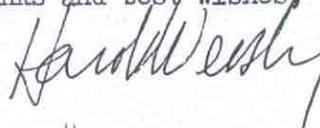
The official mythology is a fraud and this ^{udes} included the imagined trajectories of the shots that were more numerous than the Commission or the FBI admitted. There was a shot in the neck from the front. As you'll see if you get Post Mortem.

There is photographic proof that JFK did not lean forward, in the 5th Willis picture. It was taken (Whitwash II) by Zapruder Frame 202.

What the research you refer to is probably talking about is my saying I stick with Occam, who said, paraphrase, "seek the simplest solutions." I tell those who go ape over theories and rumors to ask themselves if it is ~~possible~~ reasonable ~~na~~ and if it passes that test, to ask if it is possible.

Based on his excellent JFK and Viet Nam I look forward to Newman's book.

Thanks and best wishes,



r Harold Weisberg

ORYX

November 18, 1994

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Maryland 21702

Dear Sir:

I wanted to take a few moments to write and say how much I appreciate the work you have done and the dedication you have devoted to getting the truth out about the death of John Kennedy. I don't know where we would be if it weren't for you. Not only did you find trails long-lost in the wilderness but (at the risk of mixing my metaphors) hacked through some pretty thick bullshit to take us this far. I hope you have had and continue to receive many, many letters of thanks. I think you deserve them.

Another purpose for this letter is to share some observations and also to request a price list of your books w/shipping. I don't have several of your titles and I'd much rather pay you than a publisher.

I also want to extend my appreciation for *Case Open*. It reminded me of the "fiery tracts" one comes across in turn-of-the-century Mexican politics, where the emotions and the facts are intertwined with threads of rich and colorful sarcasm. I'm glad it was published as it is because a calmer argument would never have communicated your sense of outrage. Believe me, I felt it. And it was important that we feel it.

When I purchased Mr. Posner's book (the week it came out I think) in my mind I almost wanted him to succeed. Down deep, maybe I don't want the events in Dallas to be more than what the Warren Commission originally proposed. Alas, some of Posner's tricks were painfully transparent even to someone like myself, who has only been studying this case for a few years.

I have learned to read all assassination books--even the best--with one finger tucked in the "notes" section, continually flipping back and forth, checking sources. After awhile, one becomes accustomed to recognizing nonsense: even in books that bring something valuable to the case.

I have discovered that nearly every serious JFK researcher--right or wrong, egoist or scholar--has brought to this case some pieces of information that belong in the common pool of data. Of course it's frustrating that too many of those pieces are surrounded by padding (to make a book) and conjecture (to make sales). So I have grown to be suspicious. I look for the nuggets and, if I find them, consider my efforts rewarded. I have come to always expect that most of the Warren critics claim they've solved the case and for them to lay the blame, with authority, on any number of groups and then to complain about their peers. Frankly, I don't much care if Mark Lane has overblown the importance of his research or himself; that Livingstone has been abused; that Groden is shift; or that Lifton is wrong. Each of these individuals has brought something important that I can absorb. Then I just read between their agendas, so to speak.

Posner rewarded my caution by delivering nothing of substance. I was *very* surprised at that. First, it was his cleverly structured quotes that jumped out at me. He made it appear as though certain people supported his case rather than simply address a specific topic. (I know what Jim Lopez has said, and just because he finds Marita Lorenz flaky doesn't earn him a bench in the anti-conspiracy bleachers where Posner puts him.) I soon became completely astounded at the lack of sound scholarship I found. Your *Case Open* only confirmed with specifics the generally bad feeling I was getting over Posner's book.

Regarding the Failure Analysis simulation, I have a copy of the *Frontline* special on Oswald which featured the simulation (and Posner as well) and watched it again. Perhaps I'm wrong, but it appears to me that Failure Analysis was merely reenacting the more cruder computer simulation done years earlier on *Nova*, of which I also have a copy. Maybe they look identical because they used the same data from the Warren Commission, though the dramatic "crane shot" that opens both simulations is suspiciously similar.

Nova featured Walter Cronkite's fatherly voice assuring us that, despite all the disturbing evidence they admitted to, the "single bullet theory still stands." But I think the program revealed something for the rest of us that was not reflected in Cronkite's voice-over.

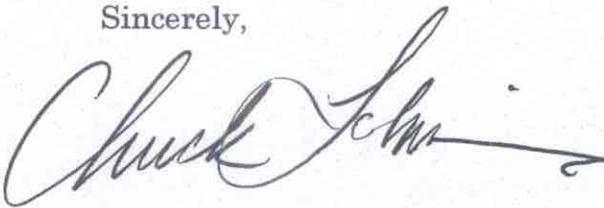
According to the trajectory of the shot that struck Kennedy in the back, the bullet came from a lower position--lining up with the second-floor window of the Daltex building rather than with the sixth floor of the depository. A specialist from the House Select Committee explained that with the President leaning forward, the trajectory would line up with the sniper's window. Also, with Connally twisted around to his right and edged over to his left in the jump seat, the bullet's trajectory lines up perfectly and so "the single bullet theory still stands."

However, as many of us know, the President did not lean over as his body was obscured by the freeway sign in the Zapruder film: we have a full color photograph of the reverse angle just before the bullet hits him. As Zapruder loses him in the viewfinder, JFK is lowering his arm, just after waving, and does not thrust his body downward, as implied by the Committee specialist. And Connally doesn't twist to his right until after Kennedy emerges from behind the sign, and at no time does he edge to the left to the degree shown in the simulation, or he would have fallen off the jump seat--a minor discrepancy not covered by *Nova*.

If Failure Analysis used the same data, why didn't they call attention to the fact that the "cone" splayed back from the first wound *cannot* line up with the sniper's window. That's assuming we're talking about a single shooter doing all that damage.

One researcher quoted you as saying that the simple explanation is usually the best. I have an additional axiom, and I borrowed it from the movie *WarGames*. After listening to a defense of the Warren Commission or anyone's theory, I ask: "Yes, but does it make any sense?" After putting Connally through contortions and Kennedy into wild downward thrusting motions while supposedly hidden from view by a sign--all just to make the wounds line up? The official explanation remains neither simple nor does it make any sense. Case closed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chuck Lakin". The signature is fluid and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Chuck Lakin

P.S. I am eagerly awaiting publication of Newman's *Lee Harvey Oswald and the CIA*, which I've been told has been delayed until March. I hope everyone appreciates that the new doors he will be opening are to the house you built.