

David Lundquist
635 N. Chestnut St.,
Seymour, IN 47274

2/12/94

Dear David,

Please excuse my typing. I'll be 81 years old in less than two months, I must keep my legs elevated when I sit, my vision is not good, and I'm fortunate to be surviving a number of illnesses. And, frankly, in recent years, I've not taken the time for most letters that, perhaps by a coincidence, I now take.

The coincidence is that you begin your letter by saying that you are 17 years old and that recently I returned to a manuscript I laid aside more than a half year ago to write something else. The largely completed manuscript I've begun reading and correcting has the tentative title, "Inside the JFK Assassination Conspiracy." The book for which I laid it side I'd titled "Hoax," with an appropriate subtitle. It is about Gerald Posner's mistitled "Case Closed," which as he knew, is a lying title. I think that part of what I wrote will be in the bookstores within a few months. In reading and correcting the book I'd laid aside, in recent days I've been sort of reliving my life beginning when I was about your age.

This book is a critical commentary on the commercialization and exploitation of the JFK assassination. If it were not that Posner's book received enormous attention and has done more to deceive and mislead the people than any other, I'd have restricted the space I devoted to him to a chapter or two in the book to which I've just returned. But he is not only the most successful of the commercializers and exploiters, he was the most deliberate of them. He set out to write and he completed the most dishonest book of all and his dishonesty reached more people than any other dishonest assassination book, perhaps with the ancillary uses made of it, more than all others together.

I begin the book to which I've returned by explaining what it is that prepared me to do the work I've done, of which I think you have no glimmer. I'd thought about that often in recent years, perhaps more so with the advent of the serious illnesses I survive. I came to realize years ago that it was the learning experiences of my life and I coped with a variety of problems, probably of a nature few people have to face. So, I begin that book trying to explain to the young people who might in the future read it to understand that all of life is a learning experience and that they should be aware of it. It grew longer than I had expected in what I did not intend as an autobiography.

I realized much younger that older men, in spending time with me, were conveying to me what they had learned in their longer lives with the experiences of those lives. And throughout the assassination work I have done I have always taken time for younger people who were interested in it. Some came and stayed with us, others visited, and with others my contact was mostly with letters.

Before ~~me~~ beginning the book I laid aside and to which I've just returned I had completed the lengthy manuscript of a book I think will be on sale in September. ^{It} is, also with an appropriate subtitle, titled, "NEVER AGAIN!" I do not know why publication was delayed and I'm sorry it was. I think you'll find the answers to some of your ^{2/}questions in it, as to a lesser degree you will in the coming book, now titled "Case Open."

"NEVER AGAIN!" begins by documenting the official decision not to investigate the assassination itself. Because it was never officially investigated and was never intended to be, there are no leads to be followed by private persons. This means that those books that pretend to solve the crime cannot do that on the basis of the existing evidence. It also means that those who read such books ought, if they do not want to be misled by them, read them questioningly. Not only must what they say be questioned but so also must what they say are their sources. The latter is often close to impossible for most. But what is not impossible is that those who read these books understand how to question them in their own minds. I suggest, as I have for years, that two questions are basic. First ask, "Is this reasonable?" If what is questioned passes that test, then ask, "Is this possible?"

Of the books you mention perhaps all but one fail to pass the first test. It does not pass the second test. That book, also mistitled, is "Best Evidence." All that it holds that was new when it appeared is its theory, of the body snatching. To reasonable examination, it cannot pass the second test. I suggest that you ask yourself if you think it possible that with the President's body never once without many of his loyalists beside it in its ~~gasket~~ and with his widow also sitting next to it except for the few minutes of the LBJ swearing ~~in~~, if it was possible first for the body to be kidnapped and then for it to be hidden, without leaving a trace, for the rest of that trip. There are other questions, but ask this and try to reason it through on your own, with "Anchester's" sorry conversion into a phony Camelot as one of your sources for guidance.

Read the Warren Report the same way. If you could read my first book first and then examine the Report by checking in it what I used and cite from it I think you will find it informative. The Report is also but a theory. If as is more likely you read it first and separately, ask these same questions as you do and ask also if what it says is proven beyond question by fact that cannot be questioned.

Of all the TV shows, including those on which I appear, there is only one that is entirely factual and limited to the official evidence, with no effort made to solve the crime and no theorized solution. You have "Reasonable Doubt." When you read the Report and what it says about its single-bullet theory, compare it with what Pelby says in it.

It may interest you to know that when he did that and then became my friend he also was a student. That documentary was his master's thesis at the University of Maryland, its school of communications. He is now on the staff of "Unsolved Mysteries."

There is one respect in which I do not want to mislead you about theorizing. There is nothing wrong with theorizing as long as those theories are not presented as fact. They are not. In fiction one has the right to say or explore anything at all. But I do not believe that there is the right Oliver Stone asserted, to proclaim his fictional movie is non-fiction. This has, of course, broader applicability.

There is something you should understand about the conspiracy question. Whether or not there was a conspiracy is a question of fact, not of theory. If the crime was beyond the capability of any one man then on that factual basis alone there was a conspiracy. However, establishing that there was a conspiracy does not identify the conspirators. Beginning with my first book I proved there was a conspiracy. But I have not undertaken to prove who conspired because there is no known factual basis for that. We can, of course, wonder who they were, and we should. But we should not read without questioning those books that pretend to solve the crime, as not one does.

I have no reason to believe that LBJ was involved in the crime in any way.

As you asked, I enclose the information on my books.

I am not suggesting in this that you act beyond your years or assume you have knowledge or understanding you could not have acquired in so few years. I am suggesting that you can grow and learn much by thinking as perhaps you have not done, by asking questions, by analyzing what you read to the degree that is now possible for you. Do not read with blind acceptance. Question, always question, in your own mind.

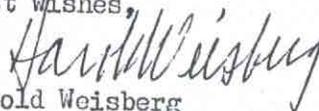
If you are ever near you, you will be welcome. If your interest continues, when I am no longer able to use them, all my records will be a free public archive at local Hood College. These records include, besides my own not inconsiderable work product, about a third of a million pages of once-withheld official records. I got them by a series of a dozen or so lawsuits under the Freedom of Information Act.

I do not often take this time for letters now because each thing I now do is at the cost of something else I'll not be able to do. I want to spend as much as I can of the time that remains for me in perfecting the record for history to the degree I can. But with the fresh reminder of how much time older men took for and with me beginning before your parents were born I've taken this time in the hope it may be of some use to you.

You have an impressive collection. Thanks for the fine pictures of it. But remember, collecting is one thing, inquiry is something else. Each has its place and to a degree can coincide but inquiry is more serious and more difficult. If you do not know the definition, conspiracy is a combination to do what the law says is wrong plus an overt step to eliminate speech, just talking about it. As few as two can conspire.

Best wishes,

Harold Weisberg



Dear Harold Weisberg,

My name is David Lundquist. I am 17 years old, and I currently live in Indiana. I wanted to know if you still had available the *Whitewash* series, *Post Mortem*, and others? If you do, I would like to know the price of them.

All my life I've been a history buff. I've loved to study about Presidents. Anyway, my Grandmother passed away when I was very young, and got a hold of two books that she owned. One was called *Four Days*, and the other was called *The Death of a President*, by William Manchester. From then on the Kennedy assassination has been the only thing I do (work on, study, read, etc.), I didn't really get into it until I watched Oliver Stone's *JFK*.

It made me open my eyes to what really happened. I then started to purchase books on the subject, like *Crossfire*, *On The Trail of the Assassins*, and *Best Evidence*. In fact, I'm so much into it that it's practically my life. I consider myself a researcher, but I was wondering what you consider a researcher to be? I have around 25 books, countless *Life*, *Post*, and other magazines. I also have original newspapers on the day of the assassination. I have included with this letter some photographs of the things that I have. These photographs are not up-to-date, so by now I have much more.

In December of 1992, I went to Dallas with my family on Christmas vacation. I walked Dealey Plaza and visited the **Sixth Floor** museum. I also visited the **JFK Assassination Information Center**, and I am now closely associated with them. I have ordered most of my books from there, including *Photographic Whitewash*. I haven't read it yet, but I know it will be great! So far I have read *Crossfire*, *Best Evidence*, and *On the Trail of the Assassins*. I am currently reading *The Death of a President*, by William Manchester. Next I am going to read the *Warren Report*. A short while ago I was watching a *48 HOURS* episode on a video tape. It was on the Kennedy assassination. A man on the program said that most of the people who think that a conspiracy had occurred haven't even read the *Warren Commission Report* (haven't done their homework). So immediately I figured out that that's what I had done, and decided to read it. However, I know I will still think that a conspiracy had occurred. What do you think about Lyndon Johnson's involvement in the assassination?

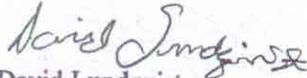
I received the video, *Reasonable Doubt: The Single Bullet Theory*, for Christmas last year, and I really liked the comments you had it. I can't believe that people actually believed that junk! I also got *Executive Action* and *The JFK Conspiracy*, hosted by James Earl Jones. Other videos that I own are: *The Sixth Floor Videos*, Oliver Stone's *JFK*, *JFK Assassination: The Jim Garrison Tapes*, and *Best Evidence*.

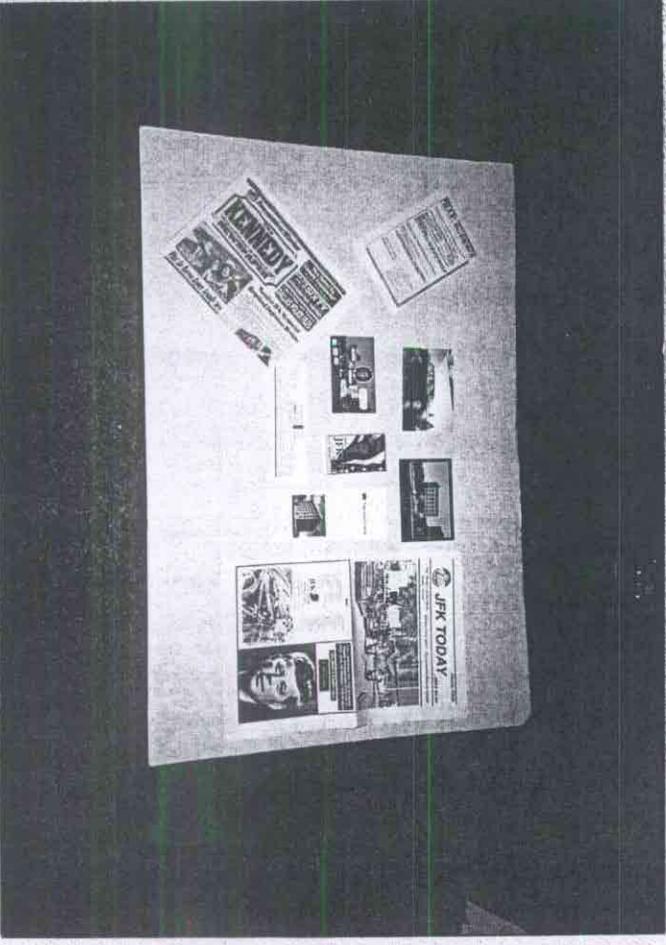
I just moved to Indiana, but where I come from in Illinois, my English class had to do a five page research paper on anything, and I picked the JFK assassination. When I was through with the paper, I had 54 pages! My history class there did something unique with the assassination. In each class, they put Oswald on trial. Students would be witnesses, doctors, etc. The lawyers would show the *Zapruder Film*, and many other films. There was a jury, and the teacher was the judge. At the end of the trials, each jury would reach a verdict. The year before I was in that class (92-93) was the teacher's first year of teaching there. I helped the classes out a lot. There were four classes in all, and I think that there were three not guilty and one guilty. Unfortunately, I was unable to stay for this year's trial, because I moved. Here in Seymour all they do is talk about the assassination, but I think I'll still help them a lot.

I hope that we get to meet each other someday. Please write back soon with any questions or comments.

P.S. My address is:
635 N. Chestnut Street
Seymour, IN 47274

Sincerely,


David Lundquist



Souvenirs that I purchased in Dallas while I was visiting there. Also, the JFK movie soundtrack is in there, which I purchased at a local store.

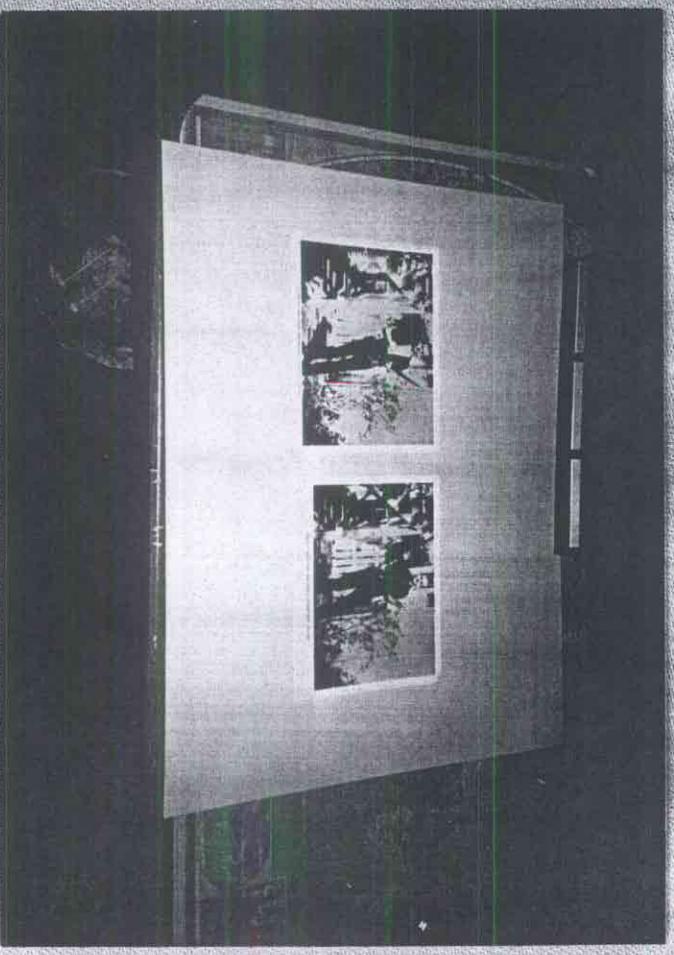
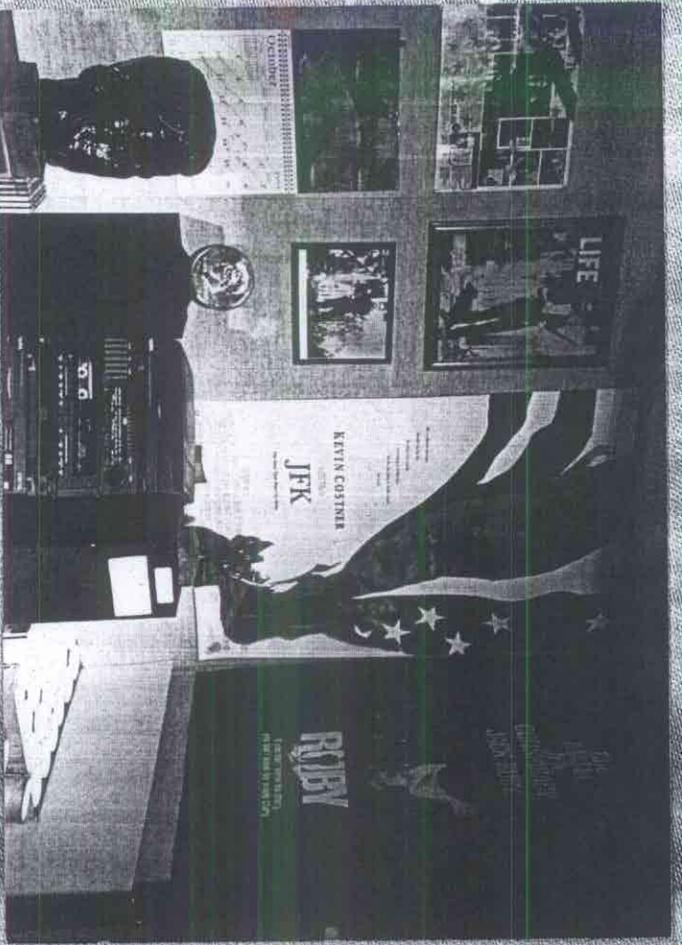
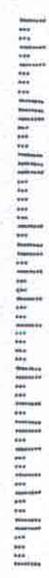
Original newspapers I purchased in an antique shop in Seymour, Indiana. Also in the photo is a reprint of a New York Times newspaper I purchased in a mall. And also is a record I purchased in an antique shop in Illinois. There's a couple old books in the photo too.

Some of the book that I've purchased. I took this photo while I lived in Illinois so it isn't up-to-date.

All the Life, Post, Look, etc. Magazines I own. Notice the Oswald-Cover Life Magazine.

David Lundquist
1035 N. Chestnut Street
Seymour, IN 47074

Harold Weisberg, Publisher
Rout B, Frederick, MD 21701



David Lundquist
635 N. Chestnut Street
Seymour, IN 47274

Harold Weisberg, Publisher
Rout 62, Frederick, MD 21701



Home in Illinois

Backyard Photos I Purchased at
the JFK Assassination Information
Center.