

Ms. Debbie Brown
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Dear Ms. Brown,

Please excuse my haste as ~~xxxx~~ well as my typing. - interrupted my writing to take more than an hour to respond to a student working on his master's thesis and I'm anxious to get back to that. Well, I'll tell you what it is but I asked you not to talk about it. I do not want to be inundated with questions and letters to answer about it. As I did with Gerald Posner and his knowingly mistitled Case Closed, I'm making a record for our history, whether or not published now, if ever, with what has ^{the} tentative working title of Mailer's Whitewash, with the subtitle Of the JFK Assassination. I am ^{now} writing about the Mailer ~~is~~ not generally known or recognized. And I've enjoyed it. I'm almost finished reading and correcting that part and I want so much to get to his associate who dubbed all critics of the Warren Report "Scavengers" when to call him that is to defame hyenas and vultures. Then Mailer's silliness that the evidence of the crime in "impenetrable" justifies my addressing what is by no means "impenetrable." That is ^{what} was butchered out of Case Open. I may also include what I've written about the dissent from the official mythology of Senator Russell, who was a member of the Commission. He encouraged my work until his dying day. A bit unusual but quite true. This actually understates the reality. Another Commission member, Senator Cooper of Kentucky, agreed with Russell. I have this from both ^{from the} files they left. They, giving read that cheap/crimshaw in the New Yorker, I'll get to Mailer's book when I can get a copy. To have a book he merely assumes that Oswald was the assassin, hence his concoction about the evidence being "impenetrable."

With regard to the student whose submission you have, please understand that I believe anyone has the right to write whatever he want. But I also believe that those of us who write what we consider nonfiction, especially on major national issues and problems, have the responsibility of being truthful, of not misleading or deceiving the people. For representative society to work the people must be well and accurately informed. Almost none writing about the assassination have done the considerable amount of work required to be able to write responsibly about it.

What is basic to understanding, and I begin NEVER AGAIN! with this (I think there was some cutting and underwriting after I turned it in) is that without any question at all the crime itself was never investigated, was never intended to be investigated, and this, from the records I have, was the notion of the then No. 2 man in DJ, Nicholas Katzenbach. The documents I have and are not know include his getting J. Edgar Hoover's agreement as soon as he got the idea, which was as soon as Oswald was shot and killed. I have also the documents that make a prima facie case of LBJ's agreement.

As a result there is no way of knowing more than the government could not avoid

having and then could not avoid letting us have.

There are, I believe, only two ways of trying to identify those who may have done the job. One is in a novel and the other is the way I have done it a what I've titled, *Maketh the Watchman*, as lawyers do, ~~a~~ addressing motive, means and opportunity. I think from the known evidence there is no probability that the mafia was involved. As an institution I doubt very much that the CWA did it or had it done and there is nothing justifying this belief in the hundreds of thousands of pages I have and have gone over.

In order to respond to your questions about my nonpublishing history I'll recount it briefly.

My Whitewash: The Report On the Warren Report was completed mid-February 1965. I had a contact ^{not} with a small publisher since, happily, gone belly-up. He was drooling into the till with what he described as a "gold-plated best-seller" when he not only broke the contract—he did not even return the ~~as~~. So I had to reconstruct that. There is no libel in the book.

In less than a year and a half, and I'll give you details later if I can and you are interested, I had more than 100 international rejections without a single adverse editorial comment. I published a limited edition in August of that year when there was ¹ reason to believe it was about to be stolen in France and I put it into general circulation 5/1/66.

That and making a success out of it when I was broke and in debt put the curse of the first on me.

To begin with no agent would touch the subject. Not without cause. There was a legitimate fear for them

So, I waste a lot of writing time making packages. But the letters I get, when I'm 82 and on borrowed time since 1975, make it worthwhile. And I answer them all. Those people care. And I love that! *(Those letters of affection.)*

Before health made me end it I'd filed a dozen or so FOIA lawsuits. Some were precedental and one led to the amending of the Act's investigatory files exemption in 1974. The Senator who saw to it that the legislative history is clear on this was the sole surviving Kennedy brother. That third of a million pages of once-withheld records are in our basement. ¹ Because the use of stairs is too dangerous for me I am in effect denied access to that unprecedented, I think, writer's dream. After my successful heart operation in 1989 I ~~was~~ decided to spend what time remains for me making a record for our history.

This part, please, is confidential.

Then I had a visit for an old and a dear friend who has spent his life in publishing, mostly as a lawyer. When I told him what I was working on he expressed interest in it. That is what is now a little overdue, "NEVER AGAIN!" I had the rough draft finished in time for it to have been published easily by mid-1993. I have no explanation of the

Delay.

"When Posner's tribute to what men are capable of doing for fame and fortune and without regard for personal or national integrity appeared, I decided to make a record of that for our history. When this friend, Richard ^QGillen, learned I was doing that he asked to see what I had written. I was uneasy because you can see what my typing is. I had made arrangements to have it retyped. He said they'd do it there after he read the first six chapters or so. Not much more than that was published. The book was butchered. They eliminated a complete separate book that had never been done and did not even pick up the typos I caught. But for me it was that or nothing so + let it go. They did retype most of it. The last pages is numbered 792! For so small a book.

You may wonder about the quality of the rough drafts. All I've taken time ~~and~~ for ^{all} what I published myself ^{rough drafts} were. I've yet to get a letter from any of the many of whom I was critical, and that understates it with some, or a phone call complaining of unfairness or inaccuracy in anything I wrote about them.

The work stacks. And I try to be careful.

What I think figures in the rear of the work is that first I ^Arestrict myself to the official evidence, second I do no theorizing and third the official evidence leaves it without question that there was a conspiracy. And this is what the government lied about.

What was gutted from Case Open was my using Posner's prosecution brief as a defense lawyer would. I used the official evidence to prove more than that Oswald was ~~in~~ not the assassin. Because it is the official evidence I proved with it that he could not have been and that the government knew it.

By the way, you ask ~~how~~ and I did not say, Gillen copublishes with Carroll & Graf. ~~Not~~ perhaps on fear. ^{That} which is no problem for me.

For all the great disadvantages of being your own publisher, it gave me freedom and + used it. When I was confronted with official mendacity that crossed the line into perjury, I charged it. I did not do that with an immune lawyer's pleading. I did it repeatedly under oath myself. I made myself subject to the penalties ^{of} perjury if I lied or erred. There has never been even a hint that the government, my opponent in those lawsuits, even dreamed of it. ^{Instead} ~~Instead~~ it gave me unique credentials: + know more about the assassination and its investigation than anyone working for the FBI. My lawyer, no coward, was afraid of that but nothing happened to either of us other than being threatened by the judge who accepted that proven perjury. I embarrassed him. But 15 years later he asked that lawyer about my health.

I loved and respected FDR. I never missed any of his fireside chats. +ears later I gave him information for one of them. I never forgot his encouragement to the people in the depths of the Great Depression; We have nothing to fear but fear itself, So, with truth and fact as shield and buckler, I've kept at it.

The thrust of my work I think ~~may~~ ^{may} see some publishers. It is that in that time of great crisis and ever since then all the basic institutions of our society failed us and themselves and continue to.

In my haste I've not fully responded to some of your questions. I was my published until ^aCase Open, except for my book on the King assassination. That was by a Dutton subsidiary. After it was published I became James Earl Ray's investigator. You did not ask but may do I have files on this! My investigation prevailed on his habeas corpus appeal. He got the evidentiary hearing to determine whether he'd have the trial he's never had. I did the investigating for those two weeks and a bit more. What I adduced made the judge in denying him the hearing say that guilt or innocence was not before him! I had the task of proving that the country's then most famous criminal lawyer did not give Ray the effective assistance of counsel, the language of the law. How can you do that? I decided by proving he did not by producing the evidence that exculpated Ray. The judge just ignored that.

If more than 100 rejections without a single editorial criticism do not prove that major publishers will not touch solid, factual writing on the subject then I have no proof. But I did not miss many in those I approach and gave copies of the ms. to.

I'm still selling all my books, without any ads or promos. And no complaints about anything I've written about so many after now 30 years.

I take this time for two reasons. One is that I try to respond and to be as informative as I can be. Another is that perhaps in the future this situation may change. All my work and property will go to local Hood College. ^{no} quid pro quo. It is a fine school with a fine faculty and adheres to our basic concepts. I like that! So, if the situation does change, you'll know where it all is. I think the professors I told you about and others will tell you that I've done just about all the basic and factual work on the assassination. Both, including King's. About which the record is that the blacks do not care that much. But the possibilities there are beyond belief. Only I will not now take the time for it. JFK is much more important, too, and I've not that much time.

I do not know why NEVER AGAIN! is delayed. I think it may be because the ~~lost~~ ^{lost} the first half of the page proofs I sent back and never mentioned that to me for three weeks. I then sent them copies. I think this time they'll ^{correcting} ~~be making~~ the typos and I think they'll at least consider the other suggestions I made. They've told me so little the book may be on sale and I not know it. I'll know when they send me copies.

If you or anyone else in your agency is ever near here- we are about an hour from much of both Washington and Baltimore- and would like to see what I have in rough draft, at least its volume for the future, or what I have that I think if properly handled can actually walk James Earl Ray, they'll be welcome. On the latter if they'd like they can tape what I say. If this does happen please remember that in order to cope with two medical

problems I keep convoluted hours. My evening meal is at 4-4:30 and I'm abed by 6. But I'm wide awake any ~~time~~ ^{time} beginning midnight. However, those early hours are ~~never~~ interrupted and they've contributed to my productivity.

If any of this seems crazy, phone Wrono. He is both a dear friend and one of my ex-
 veters but he is also an honest man. He, by the way, has done the work that could make
 an important and successful book. He is an expert on our native Americans. He is parti-
 cularly hep on the "nominees and has done much for them. He has just finished the draft
 of a research project for a lawsuit they have filed against the federal government. On
 the systematic destruction of their culture. The draft is about 200 pages. I think it
 could easily be enlarged into a fine book. Real horror stories, documented.

By the way, I doubt your graduate student knows enough to know whether the JFK
 medical evidence was toyed with, especially the film. If he were adequately grounded in
 the established fact rather than the fiction that publishers do go for he'd know that
 the film actually disproves the official mythology. Who in the world would run the
 great risks of doctoring the film only to have it, after doctoring, destroy the official
 story. When making it credible is the only purpose for any doctoring.

Best wishes,

Harold Weisberg
 Harold Weisberg

As usual, ^{after} ~~after~~ I wrote this I let it
 wait overnight to read and correct in the

hope I'd confabulate less. Just before my strange supper time a dear friend of recent
 years, a New Zealand professor, phoned. While some of what I wrote him may make no sense
 to you some will, I think, add to my response about my publishing and nonpublishing his-
 tory. Where I refer to Pell, it declined Whitewash twice and its subsidiary Dial did once.
 After I made a success of my private printing they came to me to reprint. As you'll see
 they gyped the hell out of me. It also tells you a bit about problems built-in on my
 writing. I work in such haste I've never taken the time to outline a book. This is not
 a boast. It is an apology and an explanation. That is no way for a writer to work! But
 for me and for what I have undertaken I had no real choice. I regret it and not having
 a good editor. But it is the only way I could have done what I've done, including in all
 these really tough PMA lawsuits. In which neither the Justice Department nor the FBI ever
 refuted anything; I alleged, as you ^{will} see, from the markey-up ^{was} enclose of one of their
 filings.