



university of wisconsin / stevens point • stevens point, wisconsin 54481

November 14, 1977

George Lardner, Jr.
Washington Post
1150 15th NW
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Lardner:

Harold Weisberg suggested I send you the enclosed paper entitled "The Evidentiary Base: A Critical Evaluation of the Basic Findings of 200 Investigators over the Last 14 Years." The subject is JFK's assassination and the critics.

It is a paper I delivered on November 11 in New Orleans to a heavily attended session of the Southern Historical Association, the major historical group of the southern states. but with national membership. A second paper was delivered and two commentaries were scheduled. The first commentator was Howard Roffman, perhaps the best scholar on the subject, and the second was to be Mark Lane. Lane did not appear, although he had given his word early in the year and then later that he most surely would appear at the historical meeting to give his comments on the papers.

Several months ago, Professor William Evans of the committee arranging the meeting met with Lane in the home of Lane's sister in the East and there Lane agreed to participate in the New Orleans conference. He was clearly given notice that (typical with all professional meetings) participants provide their own transportation, pay their own room fees, and participate without compensation.

Later, the chairman of the committee, Professor Dan Carter wrote to Lane; Evans also wrote to him. I believe there was other correspondence.

On October 1 my paper was mailed to him.

On November 10 in the evening prior to the meeting ~~meeting~~ he, Lane, phoned the director of the Association's meeting, Professor Ben Wahl, and asked where was his, Lane's plane ticket, room reservation, and honorarium. Wahl explicitly responded.

page 2 of 2 pages
November 14, 1977

Wall
The circumstances of the incident can be confirmed by contacting Professor Dan T. Carter, Emory University (Atlanta); Professor Bennett H. Wall, Tulane University (New Orleans); Professor W. McKee Evans, California State Polytechnic University (Pomona, Calif.).

I feel Lane's tactics when faced with informed serious critics such as Roffman and myself ought to be given public notice. The subject of the murder of JFK is so extraordinary and of such importance to the national political life, especially since Lane has so much influence over Congress and others, that the episode ought be reported. I, of course, would like to see my paper printed in toto, but feel free to quote from it as you wish.

Sincerely yours,

David R. Wrone

David R. Wrone

Professor

enclosures: paper
p. 50 of session program

SESSION

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

2:30 p.m.

Terrace Room No. 2

19

POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IN THE GILDED AGE

Presiding: Thomas C. Reeves, *University of Wisconsin, Parkside*

"Political Leadership in the Gilded Age: A Social Analysis"

Vincent P. De Santis, *University of Notre Dame*

Comment: Robert D. Marcus, *State University of New York,*

Stony Brook

Walter Nugent, *Indiana University*

9:30 a.m.

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1943-194

Comment:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

8:30 p.m.

Tulane Room

20

ANNUAL PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Presiding: Frank E. Vandiver, *Rice University*

"A Testing-time for Southern Congressional Leadership: The War
Crisis of 1917-1918"

Richard L. Watson, Jr., *Duke University*

9:30 a.m.

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Comment:

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

9:30 a.m.

Tulane Room

21

THE TOOLS OF THE HISTORIAN AND THE
ASSASSINATION OF JOHN F. KENNEDY

Presiding: David Brion Davis, *Yale University*

"The Evidentiary Base: A Critical Evaluation of the Basic Findings
of 200 Investigators over the Last 14 Years"

David R. Wrone, *University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point*

"The Medical and Ballistics Evidence: A Matter of Reasonable
Doubt"

Michael L. Kurtz, *Southeastern Louisiana University*

Comment: Howard Roffman, *Author, Attorney*

Mark Lane, *Author, Attorney*

9:30 a.m.

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