

Mr. Harry Livingstone
P.O. Box 7149
Baltimore, Md. 21218

7/18/90

Dear Harry,

After the phone conversation just ended I think it best for both of us that we have no more to do with each other. At least for a while. I'm not going to go through anything as irrational and provocative again and I think it best for you to avoid such things until you have more and better control over yourself.

The one exception to this is your sending me a couple of pages of galley proofs with my handwriting on them. As I told you I have no recollection of ever seeing any of your galley proofs. Maybe it happened and I don't recall it but about a sample with my writing on it I have no reason to believe that I made any corrections on it. Insofar as the computer printout of the manuscript is concerned, I have that and the letter I wrote you in Baltimore, the only address I had - and I had no way of knowing that you were in Canada - and it is dated and your letter with which you sent the printout is dated and as a matter of fact, as distinguished from your alleged recollection, that can be answered definitively. That I took a year to respond is just a plain lie. I responded as soon as it was possible.

What you believe is a patten for you to contend with but for whatever attention you are willing to pay to anything I say, you believe what is not so and you got excited today because you to some degree realized this as we talked. If that is an appropriate word for the nature of our conversation.

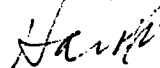
You have actually gotten to the point ^{wh} where you have talked yourself into believing that you are an expert on everything and know all there is to know about everything. Two examples from what you objected to in my letter that we did go into. One, your utter nonsense about and "average" bullet, and you underscored the word, of which there is no such thing and about which you were both silly and stupid in what you said to try to make out there is. Another is your pontificating about the King assassination, about which you know nothing at all and about which you were 100% incorrect. Instead of trying to justify this kind of thing and then believing whatever pops into your mind, why don't you back off and ask yourself the obvious questions: what do you know as a matter of fact that in any way justified your make those bald statements of nonfact? And if you do not have the knowledge required, why do you run off so about ~~xxx~~ such things?

I'm not trying to argue. I'm trying to get you to back off and think.

I tell you again, only one reporter ever asked me anything about your book and I refused to comment. I've not made any effort to ridicule you. With regard to that AP reporter you brought up here more than a decade ago, I have no recollection of what he asked me and what I said. But as I told you today when you grossly misrepresented what I actually said at the bottom of the first page of my letter of the 16, you were here, you heard what he asked and what I said, and if I'd said anything to ridicule you, you had nothing to keep you from protesting to me, then or later, or to tell him whatever you might have wanted to tell ~~you~~ to see to it that I did not ridicule you. As I also told you, I obviously had no control over what he wrote. I am pretty sure I suggested that you send me a copy and offered to apologize if I'd said anything wrong or in ridicule. I note that you phoned instead of doing that.

I don't know what your problem is but you do have a problem and I hope you can find some way of coming to grips with it. Trying to get me to believe that up is down when you say up is down and I say it isn't don't work and would not do any good. There is reality and I hope you can detach yourself from whatever is driving you so and come to recognize what is and is not real. And until I know this has happened I do not want to see you or converse with you. You know I should not be as provoked as I was.

Best wishes, Harold Weisberg



Dear Harry,

7/19/90

Because I didn't want to turn the copier on for a single page I did not mail the letter I wrote you yesterday. Having gotten the one you wrote me yesterday, although it is only too clear that you are going to pay attention only to the concoctions you have invented, I do address that. But I'll not address any more and I want to break off our relations because it not only is a waste of time but you've got the silly notion that I am out to hurt you. We've been down that road and I don't want to go there again.

You conclude this letter saying, "The bottom line here is that I'm stupid, a liar, a bad scholar, etc., isn't it?" Then you added that in the sentence you marked and enclosed from my letter you just realized that the sentence does not end with 4 p.m. (Not that the absence of a period did not tell you that?) and you add, "It's my over all problem as a writer in following your syntax."

Your problem is that you cannot abide anyone not agreeing with you and your book and your theories that have become fact in your mind. It is obvious that in my haste I omitted "was" but it is also obvious that context requires it. As usual, you just were not paying attention to what I said, wondering whether what I said is correct, thinking about it. Your mind was set on resisting and opposing anything that was other than you wanted to have be true.

The paragraph you marked up begins with my quite specific citation to what in your letter I was addressing, "page 1, graf 5, your 1," the latter referring to a number you used. So, what I was addressing was not unknown to you. It included your quaint notion that it took an hour ~~xx~~ and a half of two hours from the corpse to get from Andrews to Bethesda. That ~~at~~ what relates is what I was addressing. It is the last part of the preceding sentence. One of the questions was of "trickery with the ambulance," and I said there was none. In trying to get you to think other than in terms of your ~~xxxx~~ theorized conspiracy I tried to take you back to a pivotal time in it, the alleged dirty-work having been done at Bethesda, the time Bethesda was decided upon. That was 4 p.m. And until then, if the autopsy was part of the conspiracy, until then there could not have been any planning for the dirty-works at Bethesda, the dirty-works in your mishmash including the autopsists. Suppose, for example, Jackie had decided on Walter Reed? Or the then modern Washington hospital Center? Or where physicians knew Jack's history? Or for the D.C. medical examiner to do it. All these could have been chosen and had any one been your theorized Bethesda conspiracy vaporizes.

When you begin at 4 p.m. there wasn't really very much time to plot out all you say in your theory was plotted out. And before then it could not have been. The plane landed about 6, and the ambulances were there. Allow a half-hour to get there from Bethesda and all you imagine had to be arranged in less than an hour and a half.

In this sentence I also said that "I've forgotten ~~the~~ what is said to be the precise (which I misspelled by omission of a letter) time of arrival at the hospital and when the pictures were taken ~~on~~ when the cutting-up began," and follow this with the reference to Buckley's getting Jackie's assent to ~~do the autopsy~~ doing the autopsy at Bethesda. I've just checked the Sibert O'Neill report and they say the cutting up began at 8:15. So my recollection of about 8 p.m. was not far off.

I was writing in haste and began by telling you I would not take all that time again. I did not want to spend any time on it. So, in addition to the problems I have in typing of which you are aware, I was rushing. I didn't rewrite the letter and that would have in any event taken more of my time that stopping to think would have taken of your's. There is no problem in correctly understanding what I wrote except what in your case is caused by your block, your unwillingness to pay any attention to ~~not~~ anything that does not agree with you and your notions. But you did misrepresent it in your letter.

Now, on the notion you have that I made corrections on your galleys, you underline on the first page "second" galleys and later think it could have been the third, I've checked the file. With a St. Paul Street, Baltimore, return address, you mailed me the computer

printout from Canada 7/3/88. Or, as I told you, without checking, I had only the Baltimore address at which to write you. I have no copies of any galleys. I'm not going to go through that large file to see if I write you about any galleys because I remain pretty firm in the belief that I never saw any. If I had made any corrections on any galleys it would have been the only time I did any such thing without keeping a copy for myself. And if I had not, how in the world could we have discussed any corrections or suggestions I made? I can't remember ever doing anything like that without making a copy that included anything I made any comment about. And I do mean ever.

Regardless of all this self-serving bullshit you have invented and seem to really believe, I am clear in my recollection that I felt put upon when you phoned me from Canada, having received my forwarded letter, and told me that it was too late to make any corrections because the book was about to be manufactured.

I decided to check the file again because there is a slim brown envelope from you in it, also mailed from Canada. It holds not all those chapters you said you sent me in galley and I returned to you importuning changes in my personal interest but about 10 or 12 pages with corrections in your handwriting. This is what you sent me to reflect some changes you'd made from our conversation about the printout of those chapters. You wrote on the first page, "Galleys- last changes." I wrote you with a typo in the date, ~~8/12/88~~ "8/12/88 13". I began by calling to your attention a confusing reference to CDZ and in the next paragraph it becomes clear that I'd not seen any galleys: "I told you that I put paperclips on the computer printout and when we first talked removed them after we discussed them." I then said, and I'm sure this means after we had talked for some time, "I left the paperclips in place after you said you didn't have it before you if you ever want to discuss any of the other places later." *(Few pages only, not of last proofs.)*

What you actually did was phone me to discuss the printout with me without having a copy in front of you on which you could make corrections I indicated were required, for accuracy or better reader understanding! What a helluva way to ^{waste} and what an indecent imposition on me, to ask me to read that stuff for you then to call me when you were not in a position to post the suggestions I made! Shame, shame, shame on you!!!

I've read all the few corrections and not a one was in any way of interest to me and none related to anything I could have asked you for any personal reasons. There were of factual and other errors, some perhaps just carelessness in the writing but a different interpretation is quite possible. In any event, it is plain bullshit, a real lie, to use your word, to say as you did or even suggest that you made any changes for me or at my importuning.

Only "88" in the Canadian cancellation is visible.

Aside from what you have said in phone calls if you look at page 6 of your letter dated the eighth you actually say that you incurred "some considerable expense" to make the corrections you have implied were at my demand and in my personal interest.

And it is apparent that you never sent me ^{any} the galleys until you much later sent me these pages, a relatively small proportion of what you claims you sent, and then only to inform me of ^{what} few changes you made, usually one a page. I never corrected any galleys and all you can have or know about any suggestions I made would be your notes when you phoned me from Canada 7/88. I have a recollection of your having written me from Canada a month or so later, but in 1988, saying that with the book in galleys the publisher had backed out. And I have no recollection of anything further until you gave me a copy of the book. If it were not for the fact that I now do not want you to come here and will not go through this kind of provocation or waste this much time again you could do what I won't take the time to do, go through my file of our correspondence. I'm sure you'd see that you were not factual or to use your own reference, not truthful. Yet I'm sure you believe what you made up. It troubles me for you. I hope you can persuade yourself to make some effort to straighten your self out. And if you want Rick to go through the file, he can and he can copy for you anything you've indicated to him you'd like. Sincerely,

J. Wolf

July 15, 1992

Dear Harold -

The fact is that when I finally received your suggested changes & corrections, the book was in second galley. If you didn't make corrections (or add. corrections) on the galley themselves, you made them on the computer. P/O. I made every change as per your request. I recall absolutely sending you the corrected 3rd galley (xeroxes) to prove that I had done so.

Many other people received similar consideration, and apparently did not believe the book would be printed. Kept me waiting until well into galley, which cost me a lot of hard cash to change.

Robert knows I've made changes from edition to edition of the printed book to please Cong. Conzalez, Lipton et al. All costly -

I've tried to listen to everyone here

and the way you are handling these disputes is real wrong.

As far as I can tell, all of the galleys are in Montréal still. I don't know if the pages you worked on survived. It may be that you only corrected the printout, but I assure you it was after the book was typeset ~~up~~.

The bottom line here is that I'm stupid, a liar, a bad scholar, etc. Isn't it?

Harry

I just realized that the "4 P.M. Berkeley" sentence does not end with 4 P.M. It's my over all problem as a writer in following your syntax.

~~with~~ McClelland. That later Ferry and McClelland told you other than what they told me does not give me confidence in what you say they told you and to a degree I knew very well they did because you played the tapes for me. I did do other things while I was there that time, of course, and they were not unfruitful.

One other thing so I won't forget because I must stop for a while now. I think I suggested, on the casket and such, that you go over what I got from the MLW when I asked it only for what it gave Lifton. *

And one other thing for context, when I resume. Remember, I once told you I go with Occam, not with oriental philosophy and approaches, which are complex and I think often convoluted. I've not condemned, which I think is the word you used, what you did. All I have said is that I saw (and after reading this letter still think) no need for faking the pictures and X-rays. I have not said that what you and Robert see in the prints is not there. I have said I do not see it. And if I were in opposition, would I have taken the time I've taken to try to help you, including in the other long letter and this one?

In resuming, I wonder if your trouble comprehending Post Mortem is because you have factual rather than literary problems from it? *

And another story, to indicate to you how I lived when I did the early work, which means most of my publishing, research and investigating. On another trip to New Orleans I spent the first week ~~with~~ as the guest of a college professor I knew was an FBI informer, in a small apartment he had ostensible for quiet when he worked but actually for privacy with his girl friend. Who with her husband served me a real banquet at home. The rest of the trips that year I had the use of a former slave quarters in the Garden District as the guest of a woman whose son had escaped from an insane asylum with a doctor's pistol to kill Garrison. Instead he beat his mother up. When I drove up to Jackson, where he was in a closed ward, to interview him, I had one of my sources with me, a young woman I knew was at the very least a narclink and I was driving a Fiat sports car. I was loaned it by a dealer who had had as his sales manager a Bay of Pigs captive I'd befriended in the owner's presence. I think this also indicates that I'm not paranoid.

There is a reflection of what I was talking about, your lack of knowledge of the basic fact, on page 1, graph 5, your 1). You say the body reached Bethesda at 6 and the autopsy began at 8, ask when the pictures and X-rays were taken, and say it took 2 hours, at least 1 1/2 for the body to get from Andrews to Bethesda. I've forgotten what is said to be the precise time of arrival at the hospital and when the pictures were taken or when the cutting-up began, but as I remember, it, 4 p.m. ~~It~~ Burkley had the radio operator

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With regard to the Dallas

No
was? "it was 4PM @ 2"
Burkley (new sentence?)
There was ~~no~~ trickery la is recorded. It was before the body was picture-taking. Other sation on this subject.

I don't think this a confusing sentence?

u underlined. You can you know can't under- pool and younger child- e no trouble understanding

lew. Is O'connor an ts, if I recall cor- l? ~~Some~~ impossible. *

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Yes, I do try to be precise, whether in letters or in conversation on this subject. This is not being "super-legalistic." It is simply being accurate.

You say I care about this subject but "not enough," which you underlined. You can have your opinion. I'm sorry if you and as you say almost everyone you know can't understand my writing. Perhaps if you had the education of the high school and younger children who write me after reading it you'd have less trouble. They have no trouble understanding and offering informed comment and asking sensible questions.

You say you go on your own interaction with those you interview. Is O'Connor an example? You have only belated questions about him, after my comments, if I recall correctly. And you have done any further checking on what they have said? Some impossible. *

With regard to the Dallas doctors and what they told you, I repeat, they said the