

Mr. John Muhlenberg
1432 Blandfield Ct.,
Vienna, VA 22182

7/2/92

Dear Mr. Muhlenberg,

Your letters are good; I'm glad to have them. Thanks.

At 79, in impaired health (you can see what it does to my typing!) and limited in what I am able to do, each thing I do is at the cost of something I will not be able to do. So I hope you can understand why I do not respond to all that you said.

The assassinations are not properly a liberal/conservative issue save that some on each end saw the possibilities of blaming in on the other, each side having no basis in fact.


The crime itself was never officially investigated so there were no leads for private persons to follow.

I disagree with all the books advancing theories as solutions and I think they mislead the people and help perpetuate the covering-up. So I cannot recommend any of them. Aside from those my books you have not read, I cannot recommend too highly Sylvia Leagher's "Accessories after the fact." It was just reprinted by Vintage. A great book!

Oswald was under-educated but he spent much time reading. How he got as fluent as he did in Russian does remain a mystery.

I do not see the Times so I'm glad to get copies of those letters. They have behaved rather well after the initial irresponsibility of the editorial writer and his or her editor. They have printed the other side.

Thanks and best wishes,


Harold Weisberg

1432 Blandfield Ct.
Vienna, Va., 22182
30 June 1992

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Rd.
Frederick, Md. 21702

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Your excellent letter of 20 June 1992 in the Washington Times in response to the snide Times editorial of 21 May prompts me to respond. Although I make no claims to being a JFK assassination expert like yourself, as an avid reader I have followed the assassination since the Warren Report appeared, and I too was incensed by the editorial and the appearance of the doctors which prompted it. I wrote a letter to the Times myself about it which was published 1 June. Perhaps you saw it. I also had an earlier letter published 4/10/92 on the editorial defending David Belin. I enclose copies for your information.

Before this most recent letter was published, I never had contacted or had had any contact with other critics of the Warren Report. After the earlier letter on the subject was published, two others contacted me from the local area to express pleasure with my letter. I wish to do the same with yours. Of course I agree that the appearance of the doctors was yet another scam to deceive the public.

Unfortunately the whole affair appears to be a lesson in the "big lie" technique, reminiscent of the techniques of some recently vanquished or defunct totalitarian governments. This is at least one reason why I am disturbed by the affair. It is fair to characterize me as a right wing conservative WASP Republican hawk. (Please do not be confused by my name; my ancestors were German-American Lutherans who fought in the Revolution.) I am a true conservative in the sense of believing that big (and powerful) government is antithetical to individual liberty. As a conservative, I am appalled at the power of the government to initiate and continue this exercise in deceiving the people; I am also appalled that other conservatives are seemingly oblivious to the implied threat to liberty, or worse, as the nauseating column of Emmett Tyrrell published in the Times 5 January 1992 revealed, display an inclination to go bonkers over any suggestion that the Warren Report was anything other than Holy Writ, apparently believing that any criticism of it is a diabolical left-wing plot.

I wrote Tyrrell a personal letter (copy enclosed) after the Times declined to publish my letter objecting vigorously to his column, and he later replied, somewhat ungraciously, I felt, that, well, maybe he was wrong on that one but he had to move on, willing, apparently to concede this possibility to a fellow conservative, but not willing to take issue with the points I had raised.

In any case, my stance seems to throw me into company with liberals with whose other political beliefs I probably am not in sympathy, but that doesn't matter to me. Politics makes strange bedfellows, they say. I don't know what your political persuasions are but it doesn't matter to me. I only wanted to make contact with you and offer some few thoughts of my own. Possibly you could recommend some additional reading along these lines.

It seems to me to be almost a waste of time to argue over the preposterous single bullet theory, the autopsy, and other areas of dispute when there are several issues the facts of which are not disputed by anyone which stand out to me and are extremely troubling, to the extent that they cannot be dismissed by the lone assassin supporters and by themselves almost destroy the credulity of the Warren Report.

One of these is the persona of the Lee Harvey Oswald who married Marina. (1) The character of the supposedly comparatively educationally deprived misfit who allegedly penned an ignorant diary in Moscow is totally inconsistent with the urbane Oswald debating Cuban policy on New Orleans TV. (2) It is totally inconsistent with the astonishment held by George DeMohrenschildt over Oswald's linguistic abilities in Russian (and apparently in other dialects); indeed even Marina herself initially thought Oswald was a Russian or of some Slavic or other nationality and was very surprised to learn that he was an American. (3) It is also inconsistent, and just as telling to me, if not more so, that his brother and half-brother did not really know him upon his return, his brother saying that it might just as well have been a stranger, so changed he was, and that, along those lines, he (Marina's husband) made a mistake and referred to his half-brother as his half-brother, breaching an agreement that the three siblings had made many years before Oswald's departure for the Soviet Union to always call each other simply brothers. These are all undisputed facts and point strongly to a substitution of persons before his return to the US.

A second of these is the confrontation of LHO by Officer Marrion Baker and Roy Truly on the second floor of the TSBD near the cafeteria moments after the assassination, where they found him, as you are aware, calmly sipping a soft drink he had just purchased. The Commission made a lame attempt to say that he "could" have run away from the sniper's nest, secreted the rifle, run down the stairs, and purchased a soft drink before Truly and the officer arrived, but to believe that the "assassin" would calmly stop to purchase a soft drink during his attempt to escape from the building is laughable. Again, the facts of the confrontation are not disputed, although the exact time may be somewhat debatable.

A third issue is the Tippitt murder, the circumstances surrounding it, Oswald's arrest, and his subsequent claim to being a patsy. Although the circumstances surrounding the Tippitt murder are still somewhat murky, his claim of being a patsy is again undisputed fact. Of course the failure to take any notes during his interrogation is also laughable and makes a mockery of the police investigation.

To me, these things all stand out in glaring contradiction to the conclusions of the Report. How any one can support the Report in the face of them I cannot conceive. I would like to see supporters of the Report subject themselves to questioning on these matters in front of the press, but alas, they prefer to issue ex cathedra pronouncements while they shrink from questioning in an adversarial proceeding.

I hope you will continue to keep alert and respond to such nonsense as we have just witnessed. I'm sorry to say it's been some years since I have read three of your books, probably ever since they came out: Whitewash I and II, and Oswald in New Orleans. Since that time I have used what little spare time I had available to read a number of other books which followed. Incidentally, has anyone ever traced how LHO got back to the United States after the carefully witnessed bus trip down there? It seems to me that that is still a loose end.

Congratulations on your being one of the first to recognize this coverup. Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. I would be interested, of course, in hearing from you.

Sincerely,

John D. S. Muhlenberg

1432 Blandfield Court
Vienna, Va., 22182
5 April 1992

Mr. Emmett Tyrell
Editor
The American Spectator
1101 N. Highland St.
P. O. Box 10448
Arlington, Va., 22210

Dear Mr. Tyrell:

I don't subscribe to The American Spectator; in fact, I have never seen it. Unfortunately, it is available in the Fairfax County library system only at a remote branch in Burke, possibly where a lot of conservatives live.

However, I do see your column in the Washington Times frequently, and until your column which was the subject of my unpublished letter to the Times 1/9/92 appeared I had great respect for your opinions. I regret to state that it is somewhat diminished now. Since I haven't seen the Spectator, I do not know if that column or similar commentary appeared there, but I enclose a copy of my letter to the Times for your attention.

I find your article and the thinking behind it very troubling. It appears that because Oliver Stone, a man of left-wing persuasions, if I am not mistaken, espouses the conspiracy theory behind the JFK assassination, the theory must be attacked as the creation of wild-eyed liberals who are dangerous to the country and its equilibrium. Although I'm not a particular fan of Oliver Stone and believe he has created a fictional film which is more entertainment than fact, much like his movie "Platoon", nevertheless in fairness to him he has not labelled the film a documentary, and I cannot agree that thrashing out the theory of a possible conspiracy is either dangerous to the country or not in the province of conservatives to pursue.

I take extreme issue with your position, which I understand to be that the conspiracy theory is sheer nonsense, and suggest again, as I did in my letter to the Times, that it is better to light a candle than curse the darkness. I also suggest that it is or should be the position of true conservatives to be alarmed at the prospect of such an event taking place, with the possible connivance of dissident elements of powerful government agencies and with the facts frantically covered up by one of the agencies involved, and worse, if not covered up, at least ignored by the very Commission established supposedly to lay out these facts before the public. This is the essence of totalitarianism and an all-powerful government, something from which conservatives should recoil with horror.

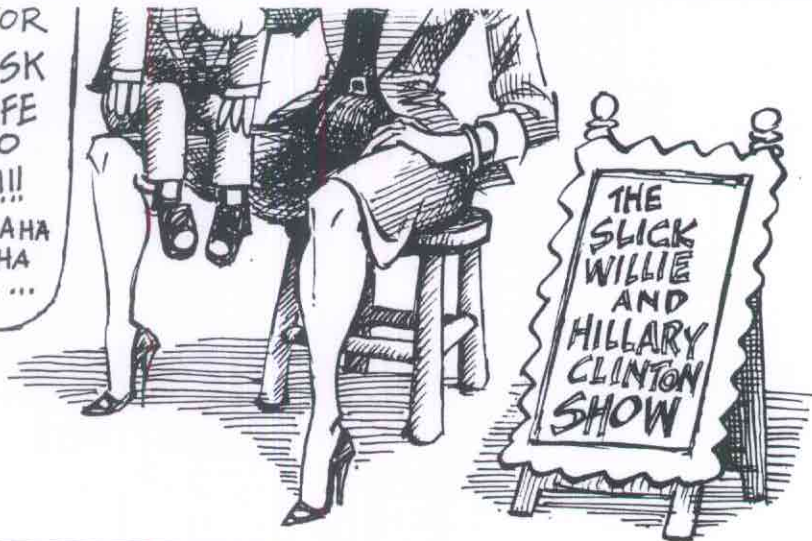
Neither the Times nor the Post seemingly will publish a letter attacking the critics of conspiracy theories. Possibly the letters were too long, but I find their reluctance to publish regrettable. I am a long-time conservative Republican hawk; I support Patrick Buchanan for President. I ask you, sir, to consider my letter to the Times and the other two letters, to the Post and the Times, copies of which are enclosed. I feel that to suggest that a coup-de-etat cannot take place in this country is to ignore the evidence before you. I feel that it is evident by now that there was a conspiracy, most likely involving dissident CIA elements, anti-Castro Cubans, and organized crime, that Oswald had ties to the intelligence communities, and that he was set up as a patsy, as he himself stated. [You may note here that I part company with Oliver Stone: I think Viet-Nam was entirely irrelevant to the assassination; it was Cuba, not Viet-Nam, which was the key]. The official position of the lone assassin and the single bullet theory strain credulity to the utmost; the conspiracy theory blends comfortably with every observed fact.

I won't go further into the theories; the enclosed letters speak for themselves. I do request that you consider my three unpublished letters with an open mind. I'll be happy to have a response from you or see you address these issues in another column published in the Times.

Sincerely yours,

John D. S. Muhlenberg

THE DOCTOR
SAYS... ASK
YOUR WIFE
SHE'S NO
DUMMY!!!
HAHAHAHA
HAHAHA HA
HA HA HA ...



Letters

Washington Times 4/10/92

The flaws of the Warren Commission report

It is disappointing to see my favorite newspaper in its March 30 editorial defending David Belin and the Warren Commission report, which, it is said, 75 percent of the American public no longer believe.

Mr. Belin, former commission counsel, may be right in pointing out that the movie "JFK" repeatedly ignores or misrepresents the known facts of the assassination.



Lee Harvey Oswald

However, the same may be said of Mr. Belin and the Warren Commission in ignoring these known facts that are glaringly inconsistent with the conclusions of the report:

■ The doctors in Dallas who examined President Kennedy described the throat wound as an entrance wound (end of "single bullet" theory).

■ Gov. John Connally maintains that he was struck by a separate bullet; the Zapruder film of the assassination appears to confirm this (end of "single bullet" theory).

■ The bullet fragments collected from Mr. Connally's wounds weighed more than the material lost from the relatively

undamaged bullet that allegedly struck both Kennedy and Mr. Connally (end of "lone assassin" theory).

■ The Zapruder film clearly shows JFK's head being thrown violently to the rear, and pieces of his skull and brains were found on the trunk of the limousine, not on the hood (end of "lone assassin" theory).

■ Lee Harvey Oswald, after supposedly committing the crime of the century, stashing his rifle among some boxes in an area removed from the sniper's nest and running down four flights of stairs without anyone seeing or hearing him, was found by Texas School Book Depository Supervisor Roy Truly and Dallas Police Officer Marrion Baker moments after the assassination in the second-floor cafeteria, calmly sipping a soft drink (end of Lee Harvey Oswald as the "lone assassin" theory).

■ Oswald denied shooting the president, said he had nothing against him and claimed he was being set up as a patsy.

■ The Warren Commission itself was unable to ascribe a motive to Oswald.

Moreover, Mr. Belin is mistaken in maintaining Howard Brennan "actually saw Oswald firing from the Book Depository," and it is to your great discredit that you perpetuate such falsehoods without investigation.

The fact is that while Mr. Brennan said he saw someone fire a shot from the sixth-floor Depository window, Mr. Brennan was un-

able to make a positive identification of Oswald in a police lineup even though he had seen Oswald's picture on TV; only a month later, after prodding by the FBI, did Mr. Brennan change his testimony. Mr. Brennan's complete testimony was reported as "riddled with contradictions" and was not admitted for use by the House Assassinations Committee.

Unfortunately, space does not



John F. Kennedy

permit me to address the other issues you raised in the editorial, the J.D. Tippit murder and Jack Ruby's killing of Oswald. They remain controversial and demand a rebuttal of your misleading commentary.

The truth is difficult to discern when so cleverly hidden by a bodyguard of official lies. Nothing is served by such a carelessly researched editorial as yours without a reply by those opposed to your opinions. Or is The Washington Times, too, part of the cover-up, like The Washington Post, Newsweek, Time, etc.?

JOHN D. S. MUHLENBERG
Vienna

16
11
er
3G
115
150
land,
avel,
nd all

Times ignores best evidence of Kennedy assassination

Your May 21 editorial "Best evidence" was slightly illusive. You suggest that two doctors, Dr. James J. Humes and Dr. J. Thornton Boswell, appeared at a press conference with new information regarding their examination of the body of President John F. Kennedy on the evening of Nov. 22, 1963. The fact is they neither appeared at the press conference nor provided new information.

That much of the controversy about the assassination emanates from the autopsy rendered by these physicians is central to the issue of their credibility in 1992. Should you doubt that the autopsy performed on President Kennedy was shoddy, it need only be compared to Warren Commission Document 320, the autopsy performed by Dr. Earl Rose, then medical examiner in Dallas, on Lee Harvey Oswald. It is significant that Dr. Rose's autopsy of Oswald was not included in the Warren Report despite President Johnson's Executive Order 11130 directing investigation into the *subsequent violent death of the man charged with the assassination.* Comparison immediately reveals why Dr. Rose's autopsy wasn't included; it would have embarrassed the government's autopsy of the president.

Two facts regarding the president's autopsy are offered in light of your editorial:

■ Dr. Humes and Dr. Boswell did not know that the anterior throat wound, which they thought was a simple tracheostomy, was in fact a bullet wound until the following day when Dr. Humes spoke with Dr. Malcom Perry in Dallas. A review of Page 4 of the autopsy reveals the problem created when Dr. Humes describes the "upper right posterior thorax" wound as "presumably of entry." Continuing, he describes the anterior neck wound, which he never examined as a bullet wound thusly: "The wound presumably of exit was that described by Dr. Malcom Perry of Dallas in the low anterior cervical region." The operative term regarding the wounds being "presumably." Autopsy reports should provide facts, not speculation, the accepted exception being the autopsy of an assassinated president.

■ The fact that the autopsy physicians did not completely trace the path of the bullet wound in the back created concern as to the accuracy of their connecting the wounds of the back and throat. This, coupled with their probe of



the back wound that indicated one whose terminus could be felt with their fingers, vitiates the contention that the two wounds were entrance and exit wounds caused by the same bullet.

The issue of why they did not trace the course of the bullet was best addressed by Dr. Pierre Finck, the third attending physician, when questioned during Jim Garrison's trial of Clay Shaw. Dr. Finck, when asked why they didn't trace the path of the bullet stated under oath that they were ordered not to. Whether Dr. Finck was truthful or not, the fact remains that they did not trace the course of the bullet. That this was a prime purpose of the autopsy has been overlooked.

Lastly, the role of Adm. George G. Burkely, personal physician to the president, has been ignored for 30 years. Adm. Burkely was one of the few people present at every significant location the day of the assassination; in the motorcade and at Parkland Hospital in Dallas, in Air Force One during the return trip, and at Bethesda Hospital during the autopsy. Adm. Burkely signed President Kennedy's death certificate, which coincidentally wasn't included in the Warren Report. The reason for its exclusion: His location of President Kennedy's wounds devastated the single-bullet theory permitted by linking the back and throat wounds. He also verified the clinical drawings made during the autopsy, but in the version reproduced in the Warren Report this verification was conveniently and neatly excised. He was never called as a witness before the Warren Commission. The reason was that his knowledgeability regarding Kennedy's death and the location of the wounds would have placed him at odds with the single-bullet theory crafted from the flawed autopsy.

That The Times chooses to support the single-gunman theory of the Warren Commission is unfortunate. Despite the rhetoric from

both supporters and critics of the Warren Commission, one fact emerges from the debate, and that is that all the facts are not known. That the critics and the public *don't know what they don't know* is not a cause for blame. It is the fault of a government that failed to fully and completely investigate the murder of a president and then failed to provide what it did know to the nation it serves. We may never know the full truth about Kennedy's death, but our best opportunity for discovery rests with the critics and an open-minded and inquiring free press.

JOHN W. MASLAND
Springfield

6/1/92

Alas, it is evident by now from your editorial of May 21 on the testimony of the naval doctors who performed the autopsy on John F. Kennedy that The Washington Times, too, throwing away all claims to being an objective investigative newspaper, fretting out the truth in the face of all obstacles, wants desperately to believe in the lone-gunner theory, to the extent that it is willing to conclude sarcastically that if the good naval doctors have spoken, the case is settled.

No matter that they have ex post facto invented a new law of physics they call the "jet propulsion effect" which contradicts the law of conservation of momentum, which has served mankind flawlessly since its conception, and claim that the pattern of the cranial wound is for some reason explained by yet another law of physics (unnamed) that (and I can hear them spluttering) "is foolproof — absolutely, unequivocally, and without question." Where have I heard such ex cathedra pronouncements before? They recall the Warren Report itself and its frantic efforts to exclude other evidence: "to the exclusion of all other weapons," etc.

Real conservatives should be aghast at the possibility that such an assassination can take place in this country, that in effect a coup d'etat took place here in a manner reminiscent of a banana republic, and should shudder at the demonstration of the power of the government to deceive its citizenry. Is this democracy? No. This is totalitarianism.

JOHN D.S. MUHLENBERG
Vienna

We welcome your opinions on any topic. Letters should be signed originals. Every letter will be considered for publication, but we prefer those of fewer than 250 words, typed double-spaced. All letters may be edited for clarity and length. Please include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Send your opinion to:

Letters to the Editor,
The Washington Times
3600 New York Ave. NE
Washington, D.C. 20002