

Don't put #4  
142 Columbus Heights  
Bklyn 11201

Dear Norman,

5/24/95

The absence of any return address on your letter or its envelope and my having mislaid or misfiled my copy means this will have to wait until I learn your address. But your letter came today and I do not want to delay a reply.

I do not recall asking you for Schiller's address. From my experience his word is worthless and to refer to him as the first title that got him recognition, as a scavenger, is to defame vultures and hyenas. Or was giving me his address your way of <sup>not</sup> avoid telling me of his buying what you had access to from the KGB and how much it <sup>1</sup> creamed him (and you) for? That was my interest.

My belief that you were helped by others comes from my familiarity with their work. You omit what was quite relevant that they also omitted from the same testimony each of you quote and that about what you say your book is about, Oswald. What is by any standard in evaluating the kind ~~of~~ of person he was that you omitted was also omitted by Epstein, Davison and Posner. There is much more than one instances of this but to give you one, his high clearance as a Marine.

In your book and in your letter you refer to conspiracy as a matter of belief when it is a matter of fact and you say you "read a <sup>huge</sup> ~~great~~ amount of "that literature." Did it not once occur to you that if you were seeking evidence of a conspiracy you might

read books that advance no theories and from time to time refuted them? In this regard you might consider reading my current NEVER AGAIN! If I had the copy I'd sent it to you, but my publisher is not Random House and my requests for copies are without response.

<sup>a mail</sup> You refer to me as an expert. You asked for no information from me and as you may not remember I offered you access to all the records I'd gotten at the Georgetown gathering of the nuts in 1973. You then hear <sup>of</sup> me speak denouncing all those nutty conspiracies. So you knew that I risked the reception I got there to try to end all that irresponsibility and yet for your book it did not occur to you that <sup>Did not think to</sup> I might have some information you could use in it? ~~to~~ protect your reputation, which I think you may yet come to realize you placed at least in question?

You say that on Oswald's character "the Warren Commission was absolutely the best." Is that why you ignored what the Commission ignored that has been available in varying degrees for 30 years? <sup>In its files?</sup>

Perhaps you say so much you forget what you have said but what you say in your letter is not identical with assuming Oswald's guilt, without looking at any of the evidence, and then arguing that he was guilty because of the character you attribute to him, which I see you doing in your book and in other statements. But then without Oswald's guilt you did not have this book and Schiller had nothing at all for his not inexpensive deal with the KGB.

You are correct in saying that "the odds are that, like all of us, with your notable exception, I did not do enough." Along with doing too much where if you had the intent you say you did you should have learned early on you were wasting you time.

But when I offered you access to all I have and you cannot do any work in the field without know that I do that with everyone, knowing that most will write what I do not agree with, and you regard me as an expert and say that I do not do too little work, it is difficult for me to reconcile ~~you~~ what you say and wrote with not looking at all I have and not asking me for anything.

Including about the dependability of those you do use and their work.

If you do not want to tell me what the deal of which you were part with the KGB was, there is nothing I can do about that. But as of the time Schiller started trying to deal with them they had a profitable little industry of selling what they chose to sell to the highest bidder. Including even a piece of Hitler's skull and of his jawbone. In addition to which Schiller has a record of successful buying, as you learned from Gary Wilmore.

When you spent those days at Penn earlier this year you told those <sup>e/</sup> history majors that fiction and history are the same and that history lies. It is not history that lies. It is the <sup>with</sup> representations of history that lie.

Not infrequently for a purpose.

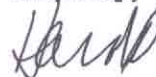
As the moving finger writes I do not believe what it writes will be the condensations as in The New Yorker and Parade.

And it is already amply recorded that the evidence is not, to ~~you~~ use your word, <sup>is</sup> "impenetrable."

You just did not want it.

I'm sorry for what you have done to yourself and to your reputation of which, if by any chance innocently, you can get an idea from NEVER AGAIN! And if you want to know more about Posner <sup>as</sup> ~~is~~ source, there may be some copies of Case Open still around. That butchery is about 25% of what I wrote, and I've not heard a word from him. You did read his reprint so you knew that I had a few things to say about him. And you also should have noticed that he could say nothing. That is, other than make my case that he had trouble telling the truth even by accident even more solid.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg.

In reading and correcting this I decided it is too polite, too understated.

The assassination of any president in our country is a de facto coup d'etat.

You know that. It is inevitable. You cannot look around you today without seeing that this one was no exception. You know what has happened and you cannot avoid seeing and understanding what is happening. and yet in this book and perhaps more in promoting it you make yourself part of that? ~~For~~ For money and whatever else you get from it? And consider yourself a good citizen, an honorable man and writer?

I do not really believe that you have to read NEVER AGAIN! or anything else to know enough of the truth, to understand what you have done, what you made yourself part of. For which there can be no condemnation that is too severe.

Whether or not Schiller suckered you from his greed, it was obvious to you when you realized that Oswald In Minsk was not publishable that it had creamed both of you. Yet you did not have the personal or professional integrity to face it this and to drop your project. whether that was from ego or the need for money is immaterial. You then became a real literary whore and added what should shame you, from its concept through your execution of it.

Have you no shame? No more regard for your country? In which you, like I, were born free, as we would not have been had it not given our parents sanctuary. Aside from what we all owe it you, like I, owe it more, as do so many who are alive and free because of it. Yet in return you do what you have done and are doing?

It is not easy for me to understand how so talented and successful a man could sink to what you have done. And I do regret it, very much.

And at the same time wondering if you have run ~~dry~~ dry and have to depend on the likes of Schiller, that pig. Even though I use the word as Orwell did it nonetheless defames swine.

With all those good intentions you once had, with all that talent and those successes, you wind up like this?

With all those gruesome dishonesties in addition, and all the undiluted evil, such as what you undertook to do to "arind"? To give some spice for X-rated minds to your failures in "Minsk"? For shame!

One more word about your "biography" of the man who had a Top Secret and Crypto clearance as a Marine, which was public through me years ago <sup>and</sup> you do not mention: in his address book he discloses that he had been in contact with a man expelled by the Soviets, when they caught him serving Penkovsky's drops. His name is Alexi Davison and he was from Georgia. Is it not to wonder whether Jean Davison married into his family? And why you made no mention of it? It was public long before you wrote the Foreword to her book. But then did you not get your salvation formula from her in limiting yourself to special interpretation of a small fraction of what was public? Sincerely, Harold Weisberg *HW*

postmarked 5/22 rec'd 5/24

9 May 1995

Dear Harold,

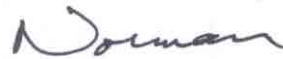
I don't expect you to agree with my methods, but, in truth, I spent thirty years on the conspiratorial side of the fence and had read a huge amount of literature which I never put into the bibliography because I never quoted from it.

The aim of my book was not to solve the case or get into the pro and con of each piece of evidence, since that is best left to experts like yourself. What I wanted to do was search out Oswald's character and I have to tell you the Warren Commission was absolutely the best for that, since as you know, conspiratorialists are concerned with conceivable machines of assassination, that is, scenarios by which assassination could have taken place, and never spent much time on Oswald's character. I felt the most profitable course at this point was to look to see what kind of man he was and what kind of woman Marina was. Look upon my book as not aspiring to a great deal more than that.

As for your suspicion that I had extra help in getting my research together, I had to tell you I had the same suspicion of Posner. Whether that is well-founded or not, I can vow to you by all I have that I did not receive any kind of material or handouts from "other people." The research was done by my assistant, Judith McNally, and myself, and since I did nothing but work on the book, and it did take two years, I'm complimented that <sup>is removed as</sup> a researcher like yourself thinks I did do much work but in fact, the odds are that like all of us, with your notable exception, I did not do enough.

Larry Schiller's address is Polaris Communications, Inc., PO Box 56056, Sherman Oaks CA 91413.

Sincerely,



Norman Mailer

PA 24th



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Frederick MD 21702