

Mr. John Masland
5430 Eastbourne Dr.
Springfield, VA 22151

4/19/92

Dear John,

Your note of April 4 begins with two mea culpas. This should begin with more of them because I think there are more than three of your informative communications I did not take time to acknowledge.

During that period I read and annotated two of the wretchedly bad books that appeared, for the historical record.

As well as what usually keeps me fairly busy.

I doubt the Times will use your submission but it does serve the purpose of informing them, if they want to be. Hope they used it!

Dr. Crenshaw's thin book is an egotrip that adds nothing to what was known and I am inclined to think builds up to a lie about LBJ. I believe there was no time for the phone call he claims LBJ made to him and that if LBJ had intended anything like that he'd not have handled it personally. The rest of the book is largely from Gary Shaw. He is one of the nicest nuts! a well-intended man whose inability to distinguish between fact and fiction and his proclivity for seeing what is not there and repeating it ruined both his professional (architect) and personal (marriage) lives.

So, most of the content of the book that is not of Crenshaw's personal medical observations which are a bit exaggerated, is not dependable and not infrequently wrong.

I've been told that although the promotions for Livingstone's High Treason 2 do not begin until tomorrow it is on today's New York Times best-seller list.

I've not gotten the Donahue and Giancana books and don't have time to annotate all the trash. I've also not gotten the book by a Texan whose name begins with "Z" and says that LBJ did it. I've lost track of what is due to appear but I know of several more books. Nothing that Donahue said about me is really faithful to fact and some of it is just plain lies. I've copies of those pages.

I did not stay up for this past Wednesday's commercialization and exploitation aired by WTNG this past Wednesday night. If you took it in I'd be interested in what you can say about it. I heard that as I'd expected, it was pretty bad.

Thanks and our best,

HW
Harold Weisberg

5530 Eastbourne Drive
Springfield, VA 22151

4 April 1992

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Mea Culpa...Mea Culpa

Received a letter from Dr. Wrone confirming your comments about the photographs. I'm glad they were of use to him.

Absolutely agree with your comments *re.* the Founding Fathers...in fact your comment caused me think about Clinton in that light...sorry state of affairs...not that the other choices are any better.

Heard an interesting comment about statehood (God forbid) for D.C. this morning...every state has a motto...the motto for D.C. would be...*It's a work free drug place!*

Under separate post I've sent you a copy of ^{an} editorial from *Washington Times* and a response I submitted.

Regards to Mrs. Weisberg.

John

5530 Eastbourne Drive
Springfield, VA 22151
24 April 1992 11:22pm

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, MD 21702

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Thank you for your letter of the 19th instant. Having been out of town for the better part of three weeks I'm woefully behind in everything.

The *Times* didn't use the letter insofar as I know, but as you suggested I anticipated that happening.

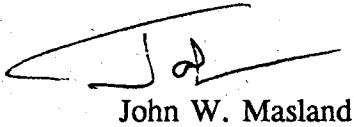
Regarding the recent Fox Network special, I had a friend tape it for me and I'll get a copy out to you, under separate cover, this week. As you heard, it was extraordinarily miserable. In fact, I felt somewhat ashamed for James Earl Jones; a fine actor he may be but it was shamefully apparent that he was pathetically unprepared for this show. I would offer a hypothesis and suggest that he was used by the producers for his marquee value alone. Unfortunately for him, he was foolish enough to be used accordingly. I intend to dispatch a personal note to him (of what value I'm not certain) in order to express my dismay over the production.

As you will see, the entire show is ripe with anecdotal information, rumor, and innuendo. It accomplished nothing if not to perjure substantive criticism. Unfortunately, I suspect thousands saw it and believed it because of Jones' role as host. Sad commentary!

I have inclosed a copy of David Belin's comments to the National Press Club. I haven't read it carefully but I was surprised to discover that you and Belin agree on something; to wit, the unbelievable situation regarding the *JFK* study guides. There may be some hope after all.

Regards to Mrs. Weisberg and I hope to be able to see you in the not too distant future.

Sincerely,



John W. Masland

5530 Eastbourne Drive
Springfield, VA 22151
26 April 1992 1:30am

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, MD 21702

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

As a follow-up to my letter of yesterday...

I may not be able to provide a copy of the Fox Network special as rapidly as I thought...am having problems with my video player used as the source for taping...not getting any audio output from it...need to have it serviced...don't know how long it might take...if too long I can probably have it dubbed at my office...damn player is only five months old...

I picked up copies of Zirbel's and Livingstone's books yesterday per your comments.

Re. Zirbel's *The Texas Connection*...it's provocative if nothing else...not well documented...in fact, pretty poorly so...he seems to rely on wisps of information, inferences, and vague references to the proverbial *They*...a characteristic all too familiar from attorneys who should know better...actually now that I've written that comment it occurs to me that these guys aren't historians as such and don't apply the scientific method to their writings...so perhaps this is as good as we can expect from them...I found his level of specificity and attention to detail somewhat disconcerting given his assertion that *from the time he was able to read, {he} has read, studied, and reread, almost every significant book, article, or newspaper account dealing with the Kennedy assassination*...also the suggestion that this was an eleven year effort layered on top of *twenty-five years of study* is misleading given the level of documentation...however, to his credit the theory is as good as any of the others and perhaps in an historical sense better than most...certainly LBJ and/or his friends had the motive, means, and opportunity but beyond that I wouldn't want to venture without some serious work...as I was scanning the book I must admit that I was tantalized by the concept of the *Right Hand Man*...at first blush, your proofs of ~~or~~ whitewash coupled with the concept of *control from the top (LBJ)* would seem to have some merit for further exploration...I would be very interested in your thoughts regarding the concepts expressed in the book expressly divorced from the issues of proof and documentation offered therein...the lack of documentation given the declared work effort is disturbing...but in a strange way the concept has a degree of elegance.

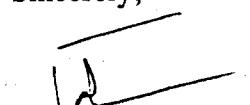
WHAT FOLLOWS IS A PERSONAL SPECULATION...One thing that struck me when going through the book...if Oswald was a *patsy* (which I believe) AND if he *did* fire from the TSBD that day (of which I'm not certain) AND if he intended to miss as Zirbel suggests...he could/would have seen Kennedy's head explode or at least would have realized that somebody else was shooting...imagine the mental and psychological shock that would occurred when Oswald realized that Kennedy had been actually shot by someone else when he (Oswald) was simultaneously shooting to miss...it would have been traumatic in the extreme...and at those points of extreme trauma often comes crystallized thinking...Oswald could have instantly realized that he had been setup and cornered...the *fight or flight* instinct would have immediately been triggered...Oswald chose flight without thinking thereby creating his meanderings during the immediate post-assassination period...the same situation could have occurred when he was confronted (if he was) by Tippitt...if Tippitt exited the car AND started to draw his service revolver Oswald might then have instinctively chosen to fight vice flee therein beating Tippitt to the draw...

Admittedly a lot of *ifs* and a host of unresolved issues...but it is intriguing.

I haven't gotten into Livingstone's book. I also picked up a book on Ruby by Seth Kantor titled *The Ruby Cover-Up*...it appears that it might be a reprint of his earlier book under different title.

Well, I've wasted enough of your time with these ramblings. Regards to Mrs. Weisberg.

Sincerely,


John W. Masland