

Dear Ian;

2/17/85

Very glad to get your second instalment on your successful Zapruder blitz of your subcontinent! You appear to be doing it well and responsibly, the second making you, as you realize, a distinct minority!

And I'm glad to get the copies to have as a record as well as to let me know how and what you are doing.

I'm in the midst of what for me is a large reorganization of my small office to make space for more filing cabinets, so I've less time than the usual little and I'm galled by all the many things that keep me from returning to writing. Things are stacked all around and I even have to walk over and around them. I can't afford to hire anyone to do any of this, either. So, I'll know sff for now with one additional comment and will resume when I hear from you again.

When you disagree with what Gregory is saying about that so-called tramp pictures you should be able to get a glimmer of what troubles me so. Dick is a friend. Grodin also. I'm the godfather of Grodin's son and he originally did that work for me. I rather suspect he has other work that was mine or was done for me by others and that it may soon also be misued. I do not question the intent of either but I do know that both are sadly lacking in the specific knowledge required for responsible comment on the things both address. In addition, I have solid and specific reason for having serious questions about those with whom they are associating. This whole thing has been seriously counterproductive. As I think I've told you I fully expect the spooks to be taking transcripts of these excesses around where it counts and weeping bitter tears over what will then seem credible while they protest being blamed for everything beginning with Original Sin. Showing the film and saying the little that can be told to the people honestly would have had a very good effect, but they've messed that up, too, by making untenable claims. Do, even that is hurtful and denies attention to less than a Gregory with substantial work that stacks. In previous correspondence it is this that you have not agreed with. bespeaking your hope rather than the actuality...I can't and won't destroy my own credibility or that of my work with any such contaminating association. And now that you have achieved decent and responsible attention in Australia, while you lack the specific knowledge required for the best such judgements, I would again press caution upon you. We can't any of us know all there is to know and none are impervious to error. Care is the only protection we can have. It would be a shame for you to waste the success with what would at best be a triviality and would, I am certain, destroy your credibility even if you pose as an anthologist only.

2/18. Thanks for Prouty exchange. He is one of those with whom I would not associate in print and no offense ^{one} of the measures of your lack of contact with actualities. He is a very personable shit retailer. I will not rip off peoples' minds. And I can't be talked into it. I will not lend credibility to these types whose motive is irrelevant. I have met Prouty. He is personable, articulate and whether or not officially the military's point man against CIA. Only CIA bad, not military, as he puts it.

2/21: Sorry rear not unexpected 2/17. But by now you know I distinguish between your good work with Z and TV & talidamide-like anthology project. Shun self-pity and go for self-analysis, devil's advocating your project and the earlier work. Ask yourself if conclusions err, deceive people, can help forces of darkness. Today's headlines confirm my direct on Gregory-Grodin (who've probably learned and fallen silent). All this insane stuff about CIA exculpates them from crimes they did commit. No spiritual generation gap. Problems are responsibility, end results. Choices not necessarily between quitting and not changing approach. Most of the stuff you've read poisoned you mind. It was crap. ...Think you were wrong to turn down new TV requests because you stuck to fact people should know in what you sent me and that I'm all for. This week both Canadian TV nets copped out on Z after govt net showed it because of these wild interpretations and irresponsibilities leading to threats of suits. The Washington TV station that was so courageous and told Time go sue now won't touch subject at all. All because of these needless and counter-productive insanities...Thanks for trying with WHIV. Alternative suggestion, try to see ancillary rights to direct quotes of transcript on CIA perfidy, now topical as hell and nothing more authoritative than Dulles. Angle: how can there be an investigation depending upon the testimony of those to whom perjury is the highest dedication, ultimate patriotism? And if the spooks can't be controlled, can there be meaningful freedom? Their attitudes is modest Hitlerism. They also are

59 Talbot Crescent,
Koovong,
Victoria...3144.

17 February 1975

Dear Harold,

I was very saddened to receive your letter of the 9th of February. As a result of it, and because of what it contained, I WITHDRAW MY REQUEST FOR AN ARTICLE FROM YOU, and tender apologies for having pestered you unnecessarily...

I am sorry that you have chosen to add me to your list of those whom you describe as insane, and that you went on to charge me with feeling 'obliged to deceive my readers'. Despite this, I in turn send heartfelt thanks for your kindness, help and advice in the past. Without that help my efforts, as puny and misguided as ^{perhaps} they were, would have been the more so...

As always, your last letter was crammed with food for thought. At the age of 27 I am only too aware of how little I know about anything - and how much there still is to learn. At the same time, as the political darkness around us grows all the while darker, I feel I must make a contribution however small. That you who are two generations my senior have taken the trouble to chide me suggests that the generation gap may ~~not~~ be a thing of the past! At least we spoke together for a while...

I wrote an article about your book for NATION REVIEW which they, in their "wisdom", have seen fit to reject. It nearly ran, though: "Dear Ian...Thanks for the opportunity to look at the article regarding new information about the JFK assassination. Unfortunately at this stage I cannot see us being able to run the story, so I am returning it to you herewith with the accompanying Warren Commission exhibit number 385...Yours sincerely (news editor). Too bad!

I will spend the next few days pondering the feedback from you and others, weighing up whether its worth going on. I don't want to end up trading insults with anyone - the hassles involved in making head-or-tail of all shades of opinion, counter-plots and subterfuges is bad enough...

Kind regards,

Ian MacFarlane
Ian MacFarlane

BY AIR MAIL

PAR AVION

AEROGRAMME



Harold Weisberg,
 Route 8,
 FREDERICK,
 MARYLAND 21701
 USA

COUNTRY OF DESTINATION

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

Jan MacFarlane,
 59 TALBOT CRES.,
 Kooyong,
 Victoria,
 AUSTRALIA POSTCODE 3144

TO OPEN SLIT HERE FIRST

P.S. If you could have seen me before I appeared on TV recently -
 something and anxious - you might have been tempted
 to temper your comments about "ego tripping". My
 wife forced me to go on ("someone has to talk about it, I
 feel it should be you"). So I have no regrets. Of
 course, there were things said that shouldn't have been said,
 or could have been said better, and many things left
 unsaid.
 It may also interest you to know that I returned
 to go on late after TV shows. I have no work for "Jane"
 but someone must be the "middlepiece", and you aren't
 here are you?