

Dear Professor Nelson,

2/21/78

Letters like yours of the 18th would make me feel frustrated - if I could feel that way.

As I think you can realize, answering you properly would take at least a day. I can't spare a day for that. It is to answer all the questions possible as responsibly as possible that I publish books and make college appearances, the revenue of which goes to developing more information that I also then make available.

You do not mention the best works, especially Presumed Guilty, by Howard Roffman, by far the most comprehensible, the primer for your students. (A.S.Barnes.)

You do go for the wildest theorizing. This is a certain loser in terms of your own understanding and the value your student can get from the course. I question its focus from this.

I think I know all that has been said about the alleged umbrella man (of whom there really were two). I have yet to hear a rational explanation of how he could have been used as part of a conspiracy or as a shooter.

What is responsible in Groden's work achieves no attention because of his anxious theorizing. He did all his responsible work for me and under my guidance. Then he went ape when he started getting silly attention. As to Z189, you say you have the first two Whitewash books. Check the first under Zapruder for this.

The nurse was Bell. Eostein is a commercializing whore used by the spooks. I am not aware that a Richard Lester bullet was recovered. If you have any proof of this I'd welcome it and be able to use it in current FOIA litigation.

Thompson's nothing original except error. When he went off on his own, stopped ripping or and citing with credit, he got lost and launched mythologies that are still in orbit. The dented hull he picked up from the first Whitewash. However, in the course of my later checking with a duplicate of the rifle and the ammo I found that in extreme violence in firing it is possible to make such a dent after firing on ejection. The FBI did not undertake to explain or duplicate this. I later did.

Never pay attention to a word the Sturgises of the world utter. The real one in particular and the anti-Castros in general. Those not venal are nuts.

I have begun to deposit my records at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point branch. (54481) Professor David Wrone is in charge of the archives. He is also the outstanding bibliographer. A year ago November with Jim Mesar and Howard Roffman there was a week of speeches, seminars and questions and answers. It is all available on audio and video tape, as the enclosed shows. I think you can find it all useful in your course. And I strongly recommend that you speak to Wrone.

When I make appearances at colleges I always try to arrange time for seminars. If the trip is of any length it often provides time for two, one the afternoon of the appearance, the other in the morning before the plane. It is \$750 plus actual expenses.

I understand your yearning, your anxiety and intensity. I hope you can understand that I cannot possibly respond to such inquiries as I'd like to. If I am direct I also have to hurry. I'm getting along in years and have several serious circulatory problems, going and coming. My day began at 5 a.m. and I'll get farther behind before bedtime. I intend neither offense nor personal criticism. I am aware that you have been subjected to what can and did receive attention. But it is all unreal and I'm troubled that students take that road. On this, in addition to Wrone, I can recommend your speaking to a local historian (Hood College), Dr. Gerald McKnight. He teaches such a course and has used some Wisconsin tapes. His home phone is 301/473-5639...My wife will include an accounting. If you can xerox Oswald in New Orleans, please return the original and a xerox and that book will cost you nothing. Very rare and I hate to sell the few I have. Sincerely,

# DRAKE UNIVERSITY

DES MOINES, IOWA 50311

Department of History

February 18, 1978

Mr. Harold Weisberg  
Route 12  
Old Receiver Rd.  
Frederick, Md. 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I've followed the continuing controversy over the assassination of President John F. Kennedy for over ten years. What began as a hobby has become a serious academic interest and now I'm teaching a popular course on the assassination here at Drake. And of course I've become a collector of the assassination literature. Your books aren't readily available here in Des Moines, so I'm sending a check for fifty dollars to secure the following: Photographic Whitewash: Suppressed Kennedy Assassination Pictures; Oswald in New Orleans: Case for Conspiracy With the CIA; Post Mortem: JFK Assassination Cover-Up Smashed and Whitewash IV: JFK Assassination Transcript. I have your first two Whitewash books. If you have any other published articles or recent work that is available I would surely like to obtain copies. If the fifty dollar check does not cover the expenses, I will of course send the balance.

You are a busy man and I hesitate to intrude on your work, but if you have a moment sometime could you please provide your answers to the following questions? They baffle me and perhaps many others.

(1) Do you agree with Grodon that JFK received the first hit at Z 189? Does his blow-up of Z 413 really show the back of the head of an assassin behind the stone wall? Is this man also seen on the Moorman Polaroid picture?

(2) Is Epstein right when he suggests that the autopsy report sent to the authorities by Dr. Humes was not the original? Were, in fact, O'Neill and Sibert correct in the FBI report when they stated that the back(neck) shot penetrated only a couple of inches and later fell out of JFK's back?

(3) While I'm on the subject of Epstein, what is this business about an upcoming book from Readers Digest? Is Epstein really going to argue that the CIA trained Oswald in Russian, sent him to Russia as a double-agent and later the KGB and Cuban intelligence joined forces to kill JFK? And then the CIA and KGB collaborated to have Oswald removed, and Ruby took the assignment on being promised that his cancer death would be faked? And that Ruby is still alive? I read this teaser in a recent issue of New Times.

(4) Do you still think that Willis took his fifth picture at the time of the first shot and that this took place several frames before Oswald could have had a clear shot over the oak tree?

(5) Has anybody in this investigation ever discovered who was the "Umbrella man"? My students find this a very mysterious aspect of the problem.



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COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

(6) Has anyone ever checked with Detroit about an early report that someone (probably a factory spokesman) found a hole in the floor board of the President's limousine?

(7) What happened to the bullet found by Richard Lester in the turf some 61 feet southwest of the TSBD? Did the FBI get the bullets from the National Archives and compare the Lester bullet with them by spectrographic or neutron activation tests? And just how many of the so-called bullet marks in Dealey Plaza do you feel are real?

(8) What do you think in the case of Roger Craig's death? Did he really see the "hulls" in a different arrangement on the day of the assassination? Do you feel he saw Oswald or a double leave the site in a station wagon?

(9) Is it possible that the Connally wrist wound was caused by a fragment from the JFK head shot? Is Grodon right when he says Connally's wrist is uninjured as late as Z 274?

(10) Who is the nurse who testified before the House committee about the five or six fragments taken from Connally's wrist? Is it Rutherford, Shrader (sp.?) or Bell or someone else? Do you have firm evidence as to the weight of the fragments removed (or left in) from Connally?

(11) Is Thompson right when he says one of the "hulls" (because of the dent) could not have been fired from C 2766? Do you agree with him and others that the death of the President was caused by two simultaneous shots to the head, one fired from behind and one from the right front?

(12) You sought, through the Freedom-of-Information suits, evidence on the spectrographic-neutron activation results. Are you convinced that the Connally fragments were identical with the metal in CE 399?

(13) Was Oswald really in Mexico City? Why did the CIA ask the FBI to check the voice on the tapes made there to determine if that voice was really Oswald? Is Philips right when he testified that the conversation by Oswald with the Soviet embassy included the offer to provide information in return for a free trip to Russia?

(14) Do you think Oswald was a CIA agent? Was he trying to "penetrate" anti-Castro Cuban exile groups? Or is Frank Sturgis right when he says Oswald was really acting for Castro himself?

(15) You must be tired by now. Just one more! Are there many in our government who are covering up for the sake of "national interest?" Will the House committee ever get to the bottom of this sordid affair?

Sincerely



Charles A. Nelson  
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