

69-01 35th Avenue  
Jackson Heights, N.Y.  
11377

Mr. Gene Roberts  
National Editor  
The New York Times  
229 West 43rd Street  
New York, N.Y. 10036

September 23, 1971

Dear Mr. Roberts:

I just received your letter dated September 20 in response to my earlier inquiries about the Times investigation of the John Kennedy assassination. I am afraid that there has been something of a misunderstanding.

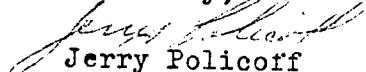
You suggest in your letter that my motive in writing similar letters to you and Mr. Salisbury was a desire to elicit "different responses from different editors." The fact is that I wrote to you on August 26. After nearly three weeks elapsed, and I received no reply, I proceeded to write to Mr. Salisbury. My purpose was not to obtain conflicting responses but merely to receive an answer to my inquiries.

I am puzzled by your statement that Mr. Salisbury told you that he had written to me. I have yet to receive any communication from Mr. Salisbury. Perhaps it was lost in the mail, but in any event I have received nothing. I do not particularly care whether I receive a response from you or Mr. Salisbury since both of you were on the investigation team, but I have yet to receive an answer to my questions from either one of you, and I am anxious to proceed with my writing. So that you do not have to consult your letters file let me repeat my questions once more:

- 1) When did the Times investigation begin, and when was it terminated (as specific dates as possible)?
- 2) What were the findings of the investigation, if any?
- 3) Why were these findings (if any) not published?

To avoid further confusion I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Salisbury. I do hope that I will hear from either you or Mr. Salisbury in the near future.

Sincerely,

  
Jerry Policoff

cc: Harrison Salisbury

# The New York Times

TIMES SQUARE NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036

September 20, 1971


Mr. Jerry Policoff  
69-01 35th Avenue  
Jackson Heights, New York 11377

Dear Mr. Policoff:

After receiving your letter of August 26, I attempted to answer it but found that I was hazy about the dates during which I participated on a team which checked into the Kennedy assassination for The New York Times. I got in touch with Harrison Salisbury to see if he could remember the precise dates, and found out that he had received a similar letter from you and had answered it. He told me what he had written you and, as the questions you asked him were identical to those you asked me, I saw nothing I could add. As you might imagine, we on The Times receive dozens of requests each year for assistance in writing graduate theses, etc., and if several people on The Times tried to answer them, we would have little time to discharge what I think is our real function, which is to gather, write and edit the news.

If you want different responses from different editors, you might consider dispensing with form letters and addressing more specific and individual questions to them.

Sincerely,



Gene Roberts  
National Editor

9/24/71

Harold,

At Sylvia's suggestion I rewrote my letter to Roberts. She reasoned that a polite letter would put him on the defensive, and I could always follow up after I receive a reply.

Here are the letters you wanted: