

11/14/70

Editor, The Evening Star
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

Your Reed Irvine's review of Albert Newman's book on the JFK assassination proves how sweet to the receptive nose the stench of garbage can be. The review, the book and the space you give both prove Orwell a true prophet.

In one respect is Irvine right. He says Newman "sifted" the evidence. That he did, with, as Irvine says, "great care", eliminating what he knew of it that was uncongenial to his pre-conception, that Oswald really wanted to kill the reactionary former General Walker.

Most of the 600 pages of this tedium are the propaganda of the rightist Dallas Morning News and of Radio News. On the basis of no evidence at all, Newman says Oswald spent his time reading the first and hearing the second. No single person of the thousand's interviewed reported either, and no accounting of Oswald's presumed finances permits his purchase of any newspapers.

The real tribute to Newman's genius is missing in Irvine's deification of him who substitutes the will of the politically-motivated for the fact of real inquiry, then calls it "non-fiction". The nonsense of the official investigation's explanation of what it calls Oswald's movements after the assassination ~~xxx~~ is all explained by the Newman genius. In Irvine's words, accurate enough, for it is the entire basis of the book, "Oswald set out ~~xx~~ with his pistol to shoot Walker. By sheer chance, officer J.D. Tippit ended up being shot by Oswald instead." Newman really goes farthur, detailing how Oswald planned the Walker assassination for that lunatic's doorstep.

Remarkable, considering that Walker was not deep in the heart of Texas, in Dallas, but in distant Louisiana!

Thus, SuperOswald to Newman and super-writer to Irvine.

For conceptual and literary dishonesty, there is nothing in the abundant literature of sycophancy that compares with Newman. Makes one wonder if Potter Clarkson, whose recent publications include other bombs of contrived support of the official assassination mythology, has official support, like USIA or CIA. Or, maybe Potter just likes to lose money?

Why don't you do some investigating?

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg