

NEW ADDRESS: Rt. 7, Frederick, Md. 21701:::301/473-8196

1/20/68

Editor, Playboy
919 N. Michigan Ave.,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir,

Your mention of my OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS, one of the few non-slandorous references to my largely-suppressed works, puts me in your debt, as does your attention to Sylvia Mather's great book.

This, however, does not blime me to the error of the review in attributing to Josiah Thompson credit for discovering that the President was hit almost simultaneously from front and back. Ray Marcus and I, independently, discovered this. I published it in WHITEBUSH II before Thompson began writing his book.

The same is true of Thompson's use of Ray's evidence that Governor Connally was shot at Zapruder Frame 237-8. It is pure fakery to say, as does Thompson, that without his access to a copy of the Zapruder film that was denied the Commission (an unalloyed lie), this could not have been discovered. Ray's work was with rather unclear copies, the picture LIFE printed. *and the [unclear]*

If you have any doubt of the truth of this, I still have what Ray sent me before the middle of July 1966, almost a half year prior to Thompson's contracting for his book, for me to use it. Instead, I preserved it for him, for it is his literary property, and a major one. I have this in the original envelope, so there can be no doubt of the date, and with the covering letter. Ray then told LIFE and Thompson at LIFE about it.

What is "new" about Thompson's work is the error he manufactured for commercial acceptability, theft - from Ray, LIFE and me - and a shocking irresponsibility, in the printing of known error and the cheapest sensationalism guised as "scholarship" and softly spoken.

Can you imagine LIFE giving him the rights to the Zapruder movie in return for the possible profit from a cheap rewrite of what had been published, when LIFE has already made enough to justify the payment of about a half-million dollars in royalties to Zapruder?

Thompson's use of the Zapruder film is salesmanship, not scholarship. It adds nothing new or unpublished and makes deliberate error in misrepresenting what proper analysis of this film had already established. Had he not done these things, he'd have had no book.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

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