

Public Interest Affiliates
680 N. Lake Shore Drive, #800
Chicago, Ill. 60611

7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21701
3/28/90

Dear affiliates,

I've eliminated the "public interest" after listening to the tape you included with your request for a release on your desecration of the 25th anniversary of the JFK assassination. I signed the release and returned it the same day because you said you have time pressures and because you have a right to be as rotten ^{and} to serve the public interest as poorly as you did, although I then did not know this and had assumed the opposite. Although I cannot, under traditional American belief, demand that you eliminate me from the tape you are going to sell, I would very much like this because I want no connection with any such disgusting, ignorant, stupid, misleading and misinformative exploitation of that great tragedy. *In which you found fact to be irrelevant.*

It is apparent that you decided to begin with that you ~~would~~ make a spectacle of the multitudinous conspiracy theories and promote those who have misled the people with them. This is your right, but do you meet your obligation to yourselves and to public broadcasting with such a mishmash of the most awful crap?

Almost as bad as this preconception is the ignorance with which you foisted it off on a trusting audience the size of which you are about to increase by a little. You managed to besmirch almost everybody, from poor Edwin Newman, that wonderful man who put his fine reputation in your griny hands, to the ghost of Jimmy Hoffa.

I know you have trouble believing what I'm saying so let me give you a minor illustration I'm quite willing to enlarge. You have Newman, after using some of the numerous poseurs in the field to mislead him, concluding with a plea that the government's records on the assassination at long last be disclosed. This reflected your ignorance perfectly. A decade ago, before my health was seriously impaired, I had gotten about a third of a million pages of them by many long and difficult lawsuits under the Freedom of Information Act. Now how could you possibly do what decent scholarship and professional and personal self-respect require of you and air your show without knowing this and saying the exact opposite of it? (By now there must be considerable more available thanks to two of my friends you saw fit not to mention when you puffed up the self-seeking nuts so many of whom you aired as authentic authorities. One is Jim Fear, the lawyer who handled my litigation, and the other is Mark Allen, who is now and for years has been suing under FOIA to continue to bring this information to light.)

Instead you aired people like that sick-in-the-head Jean Davison, who is an authority after 25 years because she wrote a lousy book twenty years after the Warren Commission materials were published and limited herself to then, ignoring all that was readily available when she wrote that memorial to dishonesty that is her book. (Which I'll document if you desire.)

Sylvia Meagher was a truly great writer and hers was a magnificent book—almost 25 years ago, when her work ended. But Holdea, who used the assassination as an exploitation, knows so little about it that he felt he did not do enough in pronouncing the name of the non-existing Oswald link to the mafia—he spelled it incorrectly, too. Schein, if you read his book, makes almost no reference to the fact of the crime and if you were not so totally unconcerned about the fact of the crime of the century, the crime that had the effect of a coup d'etat and gave us the terrible history that ensued, you would have known was wrong. Some authority—an ignorant theorist and exploiter.

If you think this criticism is unfair I have a simple proposal for you: dub off the narrative you wrote for poor, trusting Newman and read it to me by phone and then tape what I say in response. I'll take the time even though I'll be 77 in a few days and have suffered serious illnesses for the past decade. So you can have an impartial check on what I say I'm sending a copy to Dave Wrono. Phone him and ask him if I exaggerate, and then kill the deal on selling the tape and besmirch yourself that much less thereby.

Harold Weisberg
Sincerely, Harold Weisberg

3/28/90

Dear Dave,

Your sort-of summation at the end of this disgraceful show was excellent. I said nothing about it because I wanted to keep this to a page and had run out of space.

If I thought they'd pay any attention, learn from it, I'd have given them more particulars.

This show was worse than some of the talk shows of the past on the subject.

And along with the knowing and deliberate dishonesty of NOVA, it shames any decent concept of public broadcasting. I don't know what other shows they do but from this show "public interest" in their name is like "love" in the mouth of a whore.

I said "sort-of" referring to what you said because I'm sure you said more and other than they used.

The tape I got was of very poor quality and I did not make much of it out. It is so bad I didn't listen to any of it again. I think it was running too fast, probably because they were dubbing fast and the machine was off a bit.

I got the impression that Peter Dale Scott was blaming TRW for the assassination.

And that Melanson was saying that the government suppressed the original of the Zapruder film.

They and someone on the show even got the FBI and CIA mixed up.

Even Cyril was, I hope, mixed up because he took credit for getting and bringing to light the records on the autopsy material that I had some trouble getting under FOIA. Without asking me Bud arranged a press conference for himself, Cyril and Joling at which Cyril held forth at some length on the missing brain. And if he is the one who spoke of the head wound being four inches higher than the pathologists and the Commission placed it, I had to explain that to him so he could testify in the suit Garrison filed in Washington's Superior Court for evidence he wanted to use in the Shaw trial and then abandoned when he won and the government appealed.

Well, I can now look forward to the masterpiece of masterpieces. As soon as it gets here I'll have two copies made, one for Jerry and one for me to annotate. I'll write Greenwood based on some of the annotations and I'll give them back what I'm sure they expect, the xerox they are sending. It could get here today.

I cut my walking therapy short to be able to take it for copying as soon as it comes. I can then have the copies tonight, if it comes today.

Best,