

5/16/83

Dear Joseph Quagliata,

Although you do not say so in your letter of the 10th, I take it that you are a high school student. If this is correct, then even if you had any way of knowing about them, you probably would not have perceived and remembered the previous efforts at what you refer to as a JFK assassination convention. They have never worked out well, can't and won't, as I'll try to explain briefly.

Most of the so-called critics or researchers have strong disagreements with each other. While to a degree personalities are involved, the basic reason is that most theorize conspiracies and have radically different and competing theories. I am a minority in not theorizing who conspired and my minority view is widely unpopular with most of the others.

These competing and contradictory theories lead to ~~intense~~ rivalries and in some instances personal dislikes, sometimes also to jealousies.

Some of us who do not agree with each other do manage to get along well enough with each other in private, in correspondence and sometimes in sharing information. Some just can't or won't share.

But even these agreements would be severely taxed if in any public forum they were to compete for attention and acceptance.

And this is what happened every time an effort similar to what you have in mind was made.

You would even find that there will be strong disagreements over the meaning of the same slides and the same other evidence. I think that the result would be to confuse those who are not experts, at the very least.

Moreover, most of those who call and regard themselves as researchers are not in any sense scholarly. They have theories they like and then bend and twist everything to conform to their theories.

One such convention, held at a major university, ended with one group engaging in physical violence, ~~and~~ thievery and the destruction of property. Another, at a law school, while without physical violence and property destruction, was characterized by intense personal attacks, defamations and character assassinations.

So, while on most subjects what you have in mind might well serve useful and constructive ends, I believe that on this subject it would not and could not and could lead to many disappointments and frustrations that would not be a good experience for young people.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Joseph B Quagliata
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May 10, 1983

Dear Mr Weissberg:

My name is Joseph Duagliata and I wrote to you sometime ago regarding the J.F.K. assassination and your book called Post Mortem. I have been so busy with school that I haven't had a chance to thank you for replying back to me.

The reason I am writing to you again is I would like your opinion on an idea I had for sometime now. I was thinking of organizing a J.F.K. assassination convention. (There of course will be talk of other assassinations) we could have talks, debates, slides, guest speakers and other possible ideas. The date it would be held will be the last weekend in November. The money we make off this could be donated to a J.F.K. legal fund.

So I was wondering what you think of the idea and if you would be willing to help me get it off the ground. ~~to~~

Thank you

Joseph Duagliata

P.S. We will need donations and maybe you can think of some organizations or people that could help. We will try to find a way to get it tax deductible.