



Department of History

Spring 1986.

A Proposal for 1988

Dear Colleagues,

I am not a well-known JFK assassination student. I am a college history professor interested in the assassination. I have written some articles for journals and have lectured extensively on the topic.

Because of my interest in this topic, and because 1988 will be the 25th anniversary of this event, I offer the following comments and suggestions—in hopes that we will act collectively to begin plans for a 1988 nationwide program on the continuing investigation into this assassination. This 'symposium' of Kennedy assassination scholars can include participants from every part of the country through the use of television satellite broadcast transmission.

Dear colleagues, I am aware that many investigators, private and governmental, share a variety of viewpoints, ranging from the lone assassin theory to various conspiracy theories; I realize there are some ideological and personality conflicts among researchers.

What I do not doubt is the need for a well-planned televised national dialogue on this topic.

For reasons too complex to discuss here, it should be noted that the major media in the United States have strenuously avoided any serious discussion of the substantial evidence of a conspiracy behind the assassination of JFK. Given this reluctance on the part of the commercial media, I would expect to seek assistance from a number of private and public funding sources.

There should be little trouble in presenting a host of interesting and provocative people——with a variety of credentials——and materials before the people of America and perhaps, eventually, before the world at large as well.

Among those I would propose are, in no particular order:

David Belin, an attorney for the Warren Commission; James Aronson, author of Deadline for the Media; Wesley Liebler, a defender of the Warren Commission's lone assassin theory; Sylvia Meagher, author of Accessories After the Fact; Dr. John Lattimer, a pathologist who defends the lone assassin theory; Allen Ginsberg, poet and student of the assassination; Dr. Cyril Wecht, a pathologist who questions the autopsy materials on the JFK assassination; David Lifton, author of Best Evidence; Anthony Summers, author of Conspiracy; Mark Lane, a critic of the Warren Commission; Martin Shackelford, who has investigated how media approach the assassination; Peter Noyes, author of Legacy of Doubt; David Scheim, author of Contract on America: The Mafia Murders of John and Robert Kennedy; Gerald Ford, member of the Warren Commission and author of Portrait of the Assassin; Pen Jones, Jr., editor of "The Continuing Inquiry," and Jerry Rose, editor of "The Third Decade;" Dr. Jack Gordon, independent researcher; Ted Gandolfo, producer of several television programs on the assassination; Robert Groden, photographic expert on the assassination; Seth Kantor, expert on Jack Ruby; Bernard Fensterwald, Jr., of the Assassination Information Center; Victor Marchetti, author of The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence; Mort Sahl, commentator and student of the assassination; author Peter Dale Scott; and Jim Garrison, author of A Heritage of Stone and A Farewell to Justice: The CIA and the Murder of John F. Kennedy.

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These names serve only as a beginning list of possible participants. It should be noted that **none** of the people mentioned here has yet been contacted for this project.

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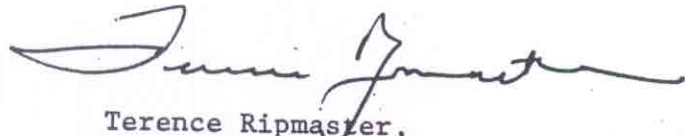
Every project must begin with some initiative and some support. I can assure you, for example, that the Communications Department at William Paterson College is committed to this project, and that its television facilities are of the highest professional caliber.

Depending on your interest and on funding from a variety of sources, actor-writer Stuart Hutchison and I will serve as coordinators for this project.

Your comments, suggestions and counsel are most welcome. Please feel free to contact me at (201) 948-6128, or Stuart Hutchison at (201) 694-5035, at your convenience.

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter. We look forward to your participation, and we hope to hear from you soon.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Terence Ripmaster".

Terence Ripmaster,
Professor of History