

Mr. Mike Stanke
136 S. 13th St.,
La Crosse, WI 54601

8/22/92

Dear Mike Stanke,

When I saw the floppy-disk mailing container I wonder who thought I could use a floppy disk. I have no computer. Then when I saw the post card, and they are rather nice ones, I was more baffled, until I saw your letter.

Which I do appreciate very much as I do the fine gesture of the check.

We did have a nice day on our 50th anniversary. I've thought about it much. To me the real wonder is that I made it at all.

You refer to all the books you read and the documentaries you've seen and that others were not interested in getting those documents released. I add that not a single one of the authors of those books has spent any time in those records to which I give unsupervised access to all who write on the subject. A wealthy one and a stinker who had his own preconception had a student going over them looking for what fortified his preconception, that the mafia did it. The others who do no real research and pursue their own would-be Perry Mason careers take freely what is available and corrupt that with their theories which are as unproven and usually as untenable. Which is to say that most of the books will mislead and misinform you. Virtually nobody has the knowledge to read the more persuasive ones critically and to test them against what is known of the fact of the assassination. So they can be and some are persuasive. So, I encourage you to take the time to read everything as critically as you can.

To answer your question, what do - think happened, I have to begin with an explanation: the crime itself was never officially investigated and was never intended to be. There thus are no leads for private persons to follow. Without question the crime was the end product of a conspiracy. But there are no leads to any assassins.

In about September, 1966, when I'd finished my second book, I thought that by thinking in cui bono terms we might get somewhere but it was not long before I realized that there are so many who could have seen benefit from the change there is no way of pinpointing, even of identifying all of them. We can eliminate that way but no more. So, I have no answer.

My work grew into a study of how the basic institutions of our society worked or failed to work in terms of the assassinations.

It is obvious they all failed and continue to fail. And look at the difference in our country, really in the entire world. The assassination did turn the world around.

I do very much appreciate your kind words and thoughtfulness and thank you for them.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Michael J. or Barbara Stanke
136 S. 13th St. 785-0218
LaCrosse, WI 54601

1040

Aug. 17 19 92 79-30/918

Pay to the Order of Harold Weisberg \$ 50.00
Fifty Dollars



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Memo For Unappreciated work

Mike Stanke

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August 17, 1992

Dear Harold Weisberg:

I hope your fiftieth wedding anniversary was a pleasant one. In case you don't remember, I was the person that called you up about three weeks ago. My name is Mike Stanke, and I'm a teacher at a local high school (Onalaska). I saw the JFK movie on December 31, 1991 and by chance went to a book store afterwards. There were several JFK assassination books on sale so I bought three of them. By August 10, I have read over fifty books, many articles and over twenty documentary videos.

Of all the authors that I have read, I have the most respect for you. You are one of the few people that has pursued a goal with little hope of financial gain. Also, you were one of the very first people who really challenged the Warren Report. More importantly, you have made a herculean effort to get at documents that "others" seemed reluctant to release. This was tedious and tiring work. As a student of history, I truly admire your tenacity.

Please, accept my small check that represents my true feelings toward a person like yourself. I wish I were a rich person so that the amount would be more in tune to what you deserve. Although I have never met you in person, I have a deep respect for you and your work.

If you would be so kind, I would like to ask you one very general question. Now that, almost, thirty years has gone by since John Kennedy was assassinated, what are your general views in this case? I guess I'm asking you to give some brief over view of the whole affair. I realize this is a very general and open ended question, but I value your thoughts more than others. If you don't want to respond to this, I will understand. Please do not feel compelled to do so.

Well, please take care Harold and I hope to hear from you soon.

With deep respect,

Mike 

Mike Stanke
English/History

P.S.

You are one of the
best people that I have
never met. Take care
and you will have a
high place in
Heaven!

MIKE