

Ms. Cathy Cross
Nightline
ABC News
1717 DeSales St.,
Washington, d.c. 20036

1/24/92

Dear Ms. Cross,

Although I address you, what I say does not. When you were here you were professional, pleasant and I believe you were truthful, as you were when you phoned. But there the professionalism and truthfulness of my recent experiences with Nightline ends.

First my apologies for my typing. You are aware of my medical problems. They require that I keep my legs elevated. This puts the typewriter to one side. Now all my fingertips are cracked. I am typing with the one not painful when I type.

I have no interest in personal attention and never seek it. You saw what I have with which I could seek attention if I desired it. I do not care whether or not I am on TV and have in the recent past declined some of the tabloid pseudo-news shows, a net and cable. I know of your program by reputation, that it is a good show. I am never up late enough to see it, Having heard the program and Koppel spoken of favorably when I was asked several weeks ago I agreed to be interviewed. I had been led to believe that enough of that interview would be used to inform people. This is my only interest in being used on TV. It did not happen. I assumed that was due to Koppel's absence.

When you phoned and when you were here you said the program aired last night would be on the withheld records relating to the JFK assassination and its investigation. On this I am an expert and it is a subject of real interest about which the people have been only misinformed. You told me that Oliver Stone, Blakey, Jim Lenar, already taped, and Mark Allen also would be on it. Of what you told me only one short sentence by me was used, and that not related to the allegedly withheld records. *None of the others used*

If I had had the slightest notion of what Nightline planned an used I would have had nothing to do with the program. It did succeed in misleading, misinforming and confusing the people even more. This is clear from what several informed, mature and intelligent people told me. From what Nightline had and could have used this cannot be accidental.

Nightline abused my trust and it abused me in the course of imposing on the trust of its audience. In the course of this it also gave lies to its trusting audience as facts. I have also been told that in presenting himself as an authentic subject expert Koppel flaunted his ignorance. But only a very few people could have perceived this so he did inflate himself to his audience, not giving a damn about truth or deceiving his audience. His ignorance extended to Belin and his record. ^{Belin} He lied repeatedly. He never saw most of the records I have and in fact, some of what he got from the CIA when he headed the Rockefeller Commission actually disproves the basis of the Warren Commission's

conclusions. This is the opposite of what his report told the country. I published this CIA information in facsimile. It is not at all secret.

You are aware that enfeebled at 78 and limited in what I am able to do each thing I do is at the cost of something else I will not be able to do. Each of the two times Nightline aired me I would have declined to be interviewed if it had not deceived and misled me. Not you personally. This is to say what may not mean much to any of you but does mean something to me. It made it impossible for me to produce and leave for the historical record what I could have done in what amounts to about a day. When I can use all my fingers in that time I could get quite a bit on paper. Including some of what now may never be known. And I think should be available to those more serious and more concerned with truth and fact than Nightline.

As I told you, my work is a rather large study of how the basic institutions of our society worked in that time of great stress and since then. As the major media failed then and since, with Nightline as an example it will continue to fail.

But this is merely another of the countless instances. I'd appreciate a copy of the transcript so I will not have to trouble others to whom copies are given.

While I have no reason to believe that Nightline will want to get in touch with me again ^{about} anything, I ask that you please tell this to the proper desk and to Koppel! I want nothing to do, even indirectly, with the kinds of prostitution of our tragic history it has presented to so many people in these shows or with a peacock preening himself and strutting coast to coast.

Please believe me, I do not include ~~you~~ you in any of this. I have no reason to.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Harold Weisberg