

Mr. David L. Kansel, editor  
The American Historical Review  
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May 31, 1992

Dear Mr. Kansel,

I am the author of the first book on the Warren Commission, "Whitewash: the Report on the Warren Report" (1965), of five other books on the JFK assassination and its official investigations, and of one on the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

A series of serious and limiting illnesses persuaded me to write no more for publication because it is not possible for me to write with the certainty of accuracy I achieved in these seven books, which are basic in the field, and I did not want to undermine the reputation of my published work.

Despite the limitations imposed upon me by these illnesses and my 79 years I was able for a while to continue with a series of lawsuits I filed under the Freedom of Information Act. These yielded about a third of a million pages of once-withheld official records that will be part of a free public archive at local Hood College. Some of these lawsuits were precedential and one led to the 1974 amending of the investigatory files exemption of the act to open FBI, CIA and related files. Others writing in the field, mostly those with whom I do not agree, have always had unsupervised access to these records.

Instead of continuing my writing for publication I have in recent years devoted my efforts to perfecting the record of these great events for history. Often this had meant annotating the proliferation of exploitations and commercializations the most conspicuously successful of which was Oliver Stone's "JFK."

(I apologize for my typing. I must sit with my legs elevated, with the typewriter to the side. I cannot eliminate the resulting errors and I cannot always get what I write re-typed.)

As anyone presuming to write about this movie and the controversy surrounding it should know to be qualified to write anything at all about it, and this is even more true when it is for publication in your prestigious journal ~~on~~ <sup>on</sup> which so many of those who teach history depend, I am the one who began the serious criticism of what Stone was up to. The first major article was in the Washington Post and it makes clear that I was its source. Thus any serious and responsible writing about the controversy, if those writing were as well prepared as they should have been and if they intended writing about the subject rather than their other interests, should have recognized that, although Stone was well aware that I am responsible for the criticism beginning with that Post article, he proclaimed that he was being persecuted by the CIA and several hundred of its "recipied" reporters, The Establishment, and that "a thousand vultures" were waiting to pick his bones.

In plain English he lied. As I wrote him, like the phony hero of his movie, Jim

Garrison, he has trouble telling the truth even by accident. Anyone qualified to write about him, his movie or this controversy, should have done enough research to be aware of this permeating fact  $\Rightarrow$  he lies and is skilled and unconscionable enough to exploit exploit his lies commercially.

When I got your April issue I was deeply involved in analyzing and preparing memoranda on other aspects of this significant development in what without question is a major, a turning-point in our history. I laid some of them aside, unfinished, because AIR is as prestigious and as influential as it is. After reading your "forum" I decided to write you at some length in generalities and then to follow that with specifics relating to each of the three articles you published.

The record is quite clear: those who are partisans and subject to more serious criticism for the faults of what they publish simply do not publish any corrections. It is not reasonable for me to expect that if as I do I criticize AIR for at least irresponsibility, ignorance and unscholarly indulgence of preconceptions and agendas pursued when not relevant, it will publish what I write. So I assume that you will not publish, hope that you will read and learn from the reading, and I will have done to the degree now possible for ~~me~~ me, made a record for our history.

Before I could resume with specific reference to the specific articles the Journal of the American Medical Association launched its media blitz/ event that disgraces it <sup>and us all</sup> as I believe you have no way of knowing. I must temporarily suspend what I am writing about your April issue and address the newest JFK assassination JAMborie.

Because one of my purposes is to inform you, rather than waiting until I am ~~am~~ able to complete what I'll write about your April issue I send you herewith what I wrote in great haste. If you have any questions, to the degree possible for me I'll answer them.

Whenever I can complete this I'll send the rest to you.

Sincerely,

*Arnold Weisberg*  
Arnold Weisberg