

Ms. Jill L. Smith
1900 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 2000
Los Angeles, CA 90069

11/2/91

Dear Ms. Smith,

Thank you very much for sending your letter of the ~~28~~th by certified mail. I do not mind a bit that this doubled the time required to reach me but I do appreciate that it meant I did not have to walk out to the end of our lane, which is usually the limit of my physical capabilities, to get the mail from the box.

You say that in your letter you respond to mine of October 5. You did not.

In the first line of that letter I refer to mine of August 25 to Oliver Stone. Apparently he did not give you a copy of it, you were not interested in it, or you did not ^{care} ~~care~~ about it. It is, as is the letter you cite, quite specific in stating what Mr. Stone was doing that I objected to, "trading on my name." True of his coauthor Sklar, too, as I stated. And Sklar did state that Mr. Stone was using my work, the word I also used in my October 5 letter. In the penultimate paragraph of this letter I again use the words, "trading on my name." Later ~~its~~ use "exploit" referring to me.

I do not see anywhere in my letter what you say you address, any claim by me to "ownership" or allegation of "infringement," your words, not mine.

I do find it interesting because Mr. Stone has on the one hand claimed to be recording "history" and on the other hand to be immune to criticism and you say that "historical events cannot be the subject of ownership."

I do not know and I have no way of knowing what Mr. Stone says. My knowledge is limited to what I am sent. It does not always reach me promptly, as Mr. Stone's exploitation of my name to Jay Carr did. ^{Carr} ~~he~~ wrote an article for the Hollywood Reporter and one for the Boston Globe, which syndicated it, as I said in my August letter. Thus it was not until the end of last month that I saw the Oliver Stone interview in the April 14 Dallas Morning News. What Mr. Stone then said leaves without question his intent to trade on my name. I enclose ^{of my letter to him.} a copy. I draw your attention to the sentence attributed to him, "Harold Weisberg in Washington has helped us." In this quotation I eliminate ^{only} what the paper added, the title of one of my books.

So I think it is clear that you elected not to address the crux of my complaint, which could not be more specific. And Mr. Stone has "traded on my name" repeatedly.

In addition to calling me a thief.

I presume that in saying the film "is based on extensive research encompassing numerous historical writings and source materials, including two well-known books" you are taking your client's word. He also claims to be consulting with 10-15 "respected" researchers. I am familiar with those books and the other nutty stuff Mr. Stone refers to as "historical" when it is fantasy. It may not interest you but I tell you in any event that he has delibera-

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^{del}avoid fact, which is the stuff of history, not the sick imaginings of commercializers, exploiters (as in "Camelot" and "JFK") particularly as reflected in those books. And it may interest you to know that Mr. Stone, ~~as all others have been and are,~~ could have (if he had had any real interest in "history" or "research" in other than irrational concoctions), ~~could have~~ had access to the 250,000 pages of once suppressed official records I got by a series of Freedom of Information lawsuits. He prefers his fiction, which is more dramatic and suggests the sinister, that none of those records would be available until at least 2039.

The reason I say you might be interested is that I believe the controversy Mr. Stone has started is not going to end with the appearance of his film. You or others in your firm may have occasion to write additional letters for Mr. Stone to others, especially, perhaps, those who can afford good lawyers. So, I suggest that if in your name or that of your firm you use some of the descriptions in your letter to me, you and/or the firm might wind up embarrassed.

I appreciate and accept your assurances that I will not be associated with the film in it-in any way. I do not know that anyone can get any meaningful assurance from Mr. Stone, and I say this based on quotations of him in what I've been sent, but if you can arrange for him not to tell reporters that I have helped him or that he is using my work, while that will not undo the harm he has done to my reputation and that of my work, it might at least eliminate his adding to the damage he has done, of which you now have his exact words, that I "helped" him.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Harold Weisberg

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OUR FILE NUMBER:

81758-000.66

October 28, 1991

REGISTERED MAIL/
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, MD 21702

Re: "JFK"/Camelot Productions Corp. and Oliver Stone

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Your letter to Mr. Stone dated October 5, 1991 has been referred to us for response.

Please be advised that "JFK" is not based on, and does not use, any of your materials. On the contrary, the film is based on extensive research encompassing numerous historical writings and source materials, including two well-known books in which Mr. Stone acquired the motion picture rights.

Further, we are informed that none of the facts and ideas to be presented in the film was brought to light or developed exclusively by you. Those events and ideas were derived from other or multiple sources. In any event since historical events, ideas and theories cannot be the subject of ownership, we could not recognize any claim by you to have "rights" in them -- even if you were the person who discovered or developed them.

This will also conform, as you requested, that neither Mr. Stone nor Camelot Productions will credit you as an author or having any creative involvement with the Picture.

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Mr. Harold Weisberg
October 28, 1991
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In summary, your alleged claims of infringement and otherwise are not valid and are rejected. We would, of course, vigorously resist any attempt to interfere with the production of the film and we hope that no such attempt is intended or pursued.

All of our clients' rights, remedies and positions, whether legal, equitable or otherwise are expressly reserved.

Very truly yours,


Jill L. Smith

JLS:ep
cc: Oliver Stone
Alex Ho
Pamela Kirsh, Esq.
Robert F. Marshall, Esq.

Mr. Oliver Stone
Camelot (into Hades) Productions
11255 Olympic Blvd.,
Los Angeles CA 90064

10/30/91

Dear Mr. Stone,

In today's mail I received a copy of the Dallas Morning News interview with you published April 14, 1991. In it you say, "Harold Weisberg ... in Washington has helped us." What I omitted in quotation is the title of one of my books inserted by the paper.

This was two months after you got my February 8 letter and is a disgusting lie, another of your endless dishonesties and unscrupulousness in what will inevitably be the most indecent exploitation and commercialization you have promoted as your expression of love for the man you disgrace by calling him your godfather.

As I told you before, I consider your connecting me with this sleaze defamatory.

What a scum you are!

I sat and thought about this and the rest of your lies and self-promotions, thought back over what I can recall of 78 years in which I guarded Nazi and Fascist prisoners; exposed Nazi cartels and necessarily had dealings with some of the people involved in them; exposed native nazis and knew some of them, necessarily; had memorable dealings with the Dies committee - in short, I was comparing you with some of the most wretched apologies for human beings I've known, and I've known some very bad ones - and I can't think of many as rotten, as indecent, as unprincipled, or as worthy of contempt.

I can't remember one who was as unabashed, as uninhibited a liar as you.

You don't tell the truth even by accident.

The vilest Shakespearian epithets would praise you.

I am not Merlin (your "Camelot" exploitation, along with the inappropriate title, "JFK") so I cannot remember the future. and with all of the corruption of which you are part, in which bad becomes good, your evil may succeed in the ways you measure success, self-promotion and dirty money.

But if there is justice, if you get what you really deserve, then you will have the disaster you have earned and you will have tarnished those Oscars as nobody could do for you.

I would tell you to go to hell only your presence there would make it a more abominable, intolerable place.

With unlimited contempt,


Harold Weisberg