

Michael Lerner, editor

5/8/92

Tikkun

5100 Leona St.
Oakland, CA 94619

Dear Mr. Lerner,

The Tikkun mountain has labored and aborted a mouse, your undated note to me post-marked three days ago.

As I said in a letter some time after getting no response to that of 3/21, you (pl) do not believe in the meaning of the magazine's name. His nonresponse proves it.

And it relates in smoke to only that part of that issue with your name on it. No reference to any of the others.

I did not, of course, expect you to publish what I sent you but I hoped you'd have the personal and professional integrity to atone for the authentic evil you did in your misinforming your readers consistent with your ideology.

You say of what you also say Peter Dale Scott "documented" that "it teaches us the way that the democratic process gets undermined..." I could but won't argue about what he really wrote and said but I do say that the way the democratic process works is by the people being fully and accurately informed.

You have undermined it twice now: first in deceiving and misleading your trusting readers and then by refusing to make any correction.

You also argue that Stone's brazen exploitation and ^{commercialization} ~~commemoration~~ of that most subversive of crimes in a democratic society is "a truer account than those" of the mass media.

His is not what you published, what you told the readers, and it is to argue that if the major media fails us, everyone else is entitled to as long as they do not fail us as badly.

However, on the wretchedly bad thing Stone did, the major media gave a "truer account" than you and your kind did!

Like Stone, who began with the expressed intent to use the JFK assassination as a vehicle for saying what he wanted to say about Viet Nam, you (pl) began with the intent of using his tinnif as a vehicle for saying what you wanted to say. This and the fact that you don't know what you talked about explain your inability to make any meaningful or principled response to what I wrote you in detail.

You've gotta be outta your head to say that there is "the unwillingness of most Americans to imagine the possibility that there was a conspiracy to kill the President." This was never true. Mine was the first book on the Warren Commission. ¹⁹⁶⁶ Reaction to it on many talks shows was that most people did not believe the official story and most indicated but were unwilling to say there had been a conspiracy. But for at least two decades most have been convinced that there was a conspiracy. Just look how the dreadful trash alleging it sells...Between us I've made a record. You should be ashamed! Harold Weisberg

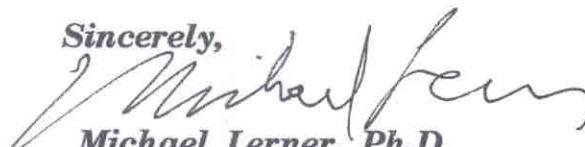
Harold Weisberg

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I appreciate your letter of 3/21, but I think you misunderstood the position I articulated in Tikkun. I did not and do not suppose that Jim Garrison's account of the assassination is the correct one. And when I interviewed Peter Scott I was appropriately sceptical of some of his account as well. What I was trying to explain was the psychology of the reaction against the movie--and that had very little to do with the details of Garrison's specific account, much more to do with the unwillingness of most Americans to imagine the possibility that there was a conspiracy to kill the president. In referring to "empowered moral outrage" I was not claiming that Garrison was himself motivated solely by this, but that the film struck a chord in those who watched it because they remembered how good that empowered moral outrage felt in the 60s, despite the fact that the film had embodied that memory in the image of one particular man whereas our experience was of being involved as a movement and not as an isolated individual.

At no point did I say or believe that Oliver Stone's account is the correct history. But I do think that the film has a powerfully positive effect--and I do think it gives a truer account than those that dominate the mass media and that have been sanctioned by the Warren Commission, because it teaches us about the interactions between criminal elements and the intelligence community, something that has been further documented by Peter Dale Scott, and because it teaches us of the way that democratic processes get undermined in an America whose foreign policies are more often dominated by ruling elites than by popular will.

Sincerely,



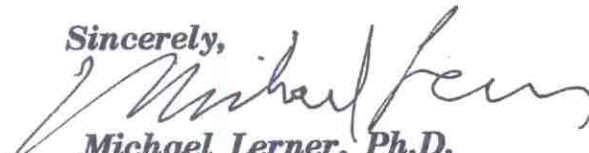
Michael Lerner, Ph.D.
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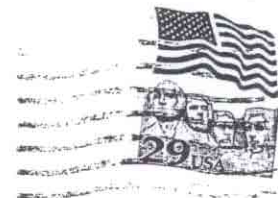
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