

Gary Mack  
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Dear Gary,

Or at least I think you with a scrawl like mine and no return address.

I'm sorry to get the bad news about Gary and Buck but I appreciate your telling me and as we all do, hope it eases off and gets better. A dear friend of my youth had a slight stroke and it in a short time <sup>to</sup> going about his usual life as though it never happened. May it be that way with them!

You also say about the wire-story service story on Oliver Stone's Nixon script "I'll always believe Stone's office leaked that early JFK script..."

The leak was to me, the leaker a dear friend, he had no connection with Stone and he later explained to me how such leaks are possible and cannot be traced.

To begin with, in that case with Warner Brothers, large numbers of scripts are required just to persuade those who are to grubstake to put their many millions on the line. There thus is no telling how many copies went to Warners and how many copies were made from them. *many!*

There also are many other needs for copies of the script, from enticing actors to interesting the many subcontractors many films require.

It was from someone Stone sought to interest for whom my source worked that he got that copy, which I presume he made from his boss's, and that is the antecedents of my copy.

After I gave it to Gardner and he used it others got interested and some got their own copies. Maybe by then from Stone, I do not know and never tried to learn.

You took Stone's bait. It is he who claimed it was leaked to hurt him, who claimed it was not really his script, who said I am several hundred vultures from the CIA waiting to pick his bones, etc.

I think that if Stone had contrived a phony leak he would have preferred that it not have been used as Gardner used it. He might have not dislikes the Nixon hit-squad leak but that is not what appeared around here, what we saw. The other leaks were rather what I'd have expected him to want. So how about modifying what you believe to have it mean that Stone learned from it?

Jim and Faine Leavelle may be a good sources on how the Ferrells are. Jim told me as I recall that they live near a Ferrell daughter and are friends with her.

Is the Mike Snyder who was at KXAS the same as the one now on the NBC-TV early morning news? Whether or not he is, and if he is I'll write him if you <sup>in NEVER AGAIN!</sup> let me know, there is some hot stuff I have <sup>in NEVER AGAIN!</sup> carrying forward that Katzenback memo about which I told him that to be the best of my knowledge it had never been on TV. Not that it had never been used. I begin NEVER AGAIN! with it. May be in manufacture by now, the book. I returned proofs some time ago. Best,

*Harold*

March 15, 1995

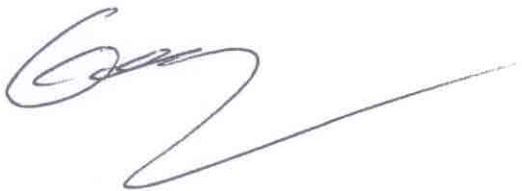
Dear Harold,

Enclosed is an AP story from Monday. Even though you and Jane Rusconi have denied it, I'll always believe Stone's office leaked that early JFK script as either a trial balloon to gauge it's acceptance, or as a way to get everybody riled up and talking about it. Looks like it's deja vu all over again!

I called for Mary two weeks ago and Buck answered. He said she was very sick and they believed she had suffered a minor stroke; she had been undergoing some tests.

Since then the phone has been off the hook and I have no idea how she is.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Stone', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

3/18/95  
PM-Nixon Movie, 1st Ld-Writethru, 0359  
Stone's Latest Theory: Nixon Responsible for JFK Assassination  
Eds: LEADS with 5 grafs to UPDATE with Stone comment. Pickup 3rd  
graf pvs; DELETES outdated final graf.  
AP Photo NY120

NEW YORK (AP) — Oliver Stone's planned movie about Richard Nixon could be a conspiracy theorist's dream: One early script reportedly has the former president organizing a hit squad that assassinated John F. Kennedy.

The screenplay is prefaced by a confession that it is based partly on imagined scenes and "incomplete historical findings," according to Time magazine's March 20 issue.

Stone, however, today issued a statement saying the "hit squad" angle is "ridiculous."

"The sensationalized stories on 'Nixon,' based on very early drafts of the script, totally misrepresent the film we are trying to make," said Stone, who was widely criticized by historians for his version of the Kennedy assassination in his movie "JFK,"

"Today's story, that we have Nixon organizing a hit squad that killed J.F.K., is ridiculous. If the media will allow us to finish writing the script, then shoot and edit the movie and present it to the public, I believe that we will be able to offer our audience an exciting and sympathetic portrait of the most controversial president in our history."

Newsweek, which also obtained an early version, says the script portrays Nixon as a "pill-popping, Scotch-swilling, epithet-spewing" victim of forces ranging from the CIA to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover to his own mother.

In the script, then-Vice President Nixon organizes a hit squad of CIA agents, Cubans, mobsters and right-wing businessmen to kill Cuban President Fidel Castro. The mission is never carried out, but the squad remains intact — and goes renegade, killing Kennedy.

The script then has Hoover threatening to reveal Nixon's role in forming the hit squad, and Nixon himself erasing the infamous 8"-minutes from the Watergate tapes to cover up references to the assassination team.

"Absolute, total and utter nonsense," historian Herbert Goldhamer, who wrote "Richard Nixon and His America," told New York Newsday on Sunday. "I guess they waited until he died to come out with this nonsense."

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