

Dear Mr. T,

3/20/31

A simply enormous amount of my time has been wasted in recent years because I undertook to answer all the many questions asked by the many serious-minded people like you who were corrupted in your thinking by the multitude of books that theorize conspiracies they allege solved that case. *All are bad.*

But it has come to the point where I cannot take that amount of time, on the phone or in writing, and be able to do ~~anything~~ anything else at all.

The crime itself was never officially investigated, wasn't intended to be, and there thus are no leads to be followed.

Not that the mixed bag of would-be Perry Masons who have ripped off the collective mind while ripping off the purses was capable of following any lead - other than in ~~the~~ the quest for public attention and dollars.

Harry Livingsgton is only the most recent illustration of this. He has been able to, if he gave a damn about fact, examine ^{how} the quarter of a million pages of once-secret records and he hasn't cared to. Not a word he wrote can be believed without solid confirmation other than in his own books because what he says confirms does not need to and need not be and usually isn't relevant.

There was a conspiracy but not a single one of the conspiracy-theory books proves it with the available official fact. I refuse to conjecture, including on how many shooters there were, etc. This ~~conjecture~~ inevitably risks misleading ~~the~~ people and I won't do that.

Menninger and Donahue, for whom he wrote the book, are truly evil people. I showed Donahue in advance where the photographic disproof of his zany theory was, he ignored it, went ahead to promote himself and get \$\$\$, and lied about me in his book. I never approached the Univ of Md, it never approached me, and I always had the arrangements I wanted for the archive I leave. They just plain lied about that as they did about ^{the} already ill Hickey.

All of Lifton's book that is not his impossible theory, all the work for which he takes credit, was published years earlier. He knew his theory was impossible but the lure of fame and fortune was too much for him.

JFK did have Addison's disease, it was under control, and no real problem and it wasn't even secret. The proof was published in 1966 or 1967 in any event. *And is now known in the late 1950s.*

Garrison, alas was phony and I'm ashamed it took me so long to admit it to myself. He made it up as he went, what he didn't steal and give his own twist to. Great tragedy, that gifted man. Marchetti's word is not dependable. He has contradicted himself too often and has used undependable sources.

Best wishes,

Hardy
Harold Weisberg

March 22, 1973

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

Please let me introduce myself; my name is Joseph Traphagen. I live in Liverpool, New York, a suburb of Syracuse. I am married with 3 children and one grandchild. I am 43 years old, a Viet Nam veteran and have worked in the telephone industry for 20 years. I was 14 years old at the time of the JFK assassination. I am a student of history and consider that crime to have changed the course of history. I have long been intrigued by the case and recent events have served to rekindle interest in it. I have read several of the more recent books on the assassination and have seen the documentaries that you appeared in ("Investigative Reports", etc)

I am currently reading "High Treason 2" in which, apart from the mention of "back of the head" approximately 1000 times, some interesting questions are raised.

Being an amateur researcher, but having a lot of historical knowledge of the case, I would like to ask your opinion of some questions raised in more recent years. I understand from speaking to your wife on the telephone this evening that you

are having some health problems, so if you are ⁽²⁾ unable to help, I understand.

First, let me say that my opinion is that there was and continued to be (and continues) a conspiracy in the JFK murder as well as King and RFK Watergate, etc. I believe there were at least 2 shooters in Dealey Plaza and that although the Mafia (or mob) may have provided technical assistance, the crime and the continued cover-up had to be carried out at the highest levels of the government. I also believe that

~~Arnold~~ was a patsy.

My questions for you are:

- 1) Shooters - They may have been professional CIA assassins and/or Cubans. What do you think of Steve Rivell's report about Corsicin hitman hired by Marvell / ^{significant} versus Terrie allegedly meeting Cuban killers?
- 2) Gordon Arnold's encounter with "bodge man" at Grassy Knoll. Did anyone ever ask him to describe the man or his voice or show him a picture of Lucian Sarte?
- 3) The very end of the Zapruder film follows the limousine into the overpass. Doesn't this show the wooded fence area of Grassy Knoll where shooter supposedly was?
- 4) What is your opinion of Bonar Meningo's book "Mortal Error" stating that Secret Service agent Hickey

fired the President hotel head shot. (This book ③ assumes, however, that Oswald was the only shooter.)

Medical evidence 1) David Lifton theory of surgery done to President between departure of body from Dallas and arrival at Bethesda ("Air Force major" body not logged in, second casket, etc.) Is attention such as this possible, so as not to be detectable?

2) Would exhumation of JFK body solve anything after all this time? Harrison Livingston raises the question of who is really in JFK's grave.

Kennedy family would strongly oppose, but, if an investigation into JFK murder warranted exhumation, could legal circumstances override family and force exhumation? Is it possible JFK remains were switched with or buried as "Air Force major" that was supposed to be buried in Arlington Saturday 11/23/63?

3) Did JFK have Addison's or Pott's disease? Would he really have not lived through second term?

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④

Oswald Could DNA testing confirm identity of Oswald from tissue samples of 1981 exhumation? General director noted no signs of craniotomy at 1981 pathology session and possibility was raised that head was switched to match dental records, etc. Given today's technology, could DNA testing help? There is a theory that the Oswald that came back from USSR was a Soviet agent, but that would only matter if he really did kill the President.

Conspiracy theories

- 1) Garrison probe - Clay Shaw, Terrie, etc.
Was Clay Shaw in all probability a conspirator?
- 2) Joseph Milten - How would he have access to info regarding plot against JFK to take place in Chicago, Miami, Dallas?
- 3) Victor Marchetti supposedly said that CIA was contemplating "limited hangout" and admitting involvement?

(5)

I would really like to know your thoughts on some or all of these questions.

If writing is too stressful for you, you may call me collect at 315/457-1162 evenings. I would welcome the opportunity to speak with you.

I would also like to order your book Post-Mortem. Your wife said the price would be £12.50 postpaid.

^a Thank you very much for your time. I hope you will be better soon and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,

Joseph M. Trophgen