

5530 Eastbourne Drive
Springfield, VA 22151
16 August 1992 1:49pm

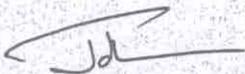
Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, MD 21702

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I have enclosed a letter I dispatched to *U.S. News & World Report* responding to the article in the August 17, 1992 edition.

I completed it after I had sealed my earlier letter to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Masland". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a horizontal line extending to the right.

John W. Masland

8/19/92

Dear John,

Thanks for your 8/17 and the enclosed letter to US News.

I gave you no explanation with the copy of mine I sent you because I was in a rush then.

I decided that the chances of their printing any letter I wrote was slight and that I'd rather say a little of what I think to the man responsible.

Won't do any good now but it just might discourage any more similar atrocities.

Yours is a good letter and for their purposes is not too long.

I suspect they may have been inundated with nutty letters and they may opt to use one or more of them.

Coming atop the JAMA propaganda and a few other defenses of the official mythology it suggests there may have been some orchestration.

What they evolved is a pretty shabby and disgraceful thing that reflects on them in almost every possible way.

I do not expect any response from Wilkin.

His wife is a well-regarded professor of political science at Hood with Jerry McKnight.

Jerry does not recall that she ever discussed the JFK assassination with him.

I think this reflects a mindset before she knew of his interest in the subject.

Our best,

Harold

John W. Masland
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JFK: The Untold Story of the Warren Commission did little to ameliorate the problems originated by the Commission's work. From the instant of its conception by Nicholas deB. Katzenbach, as articulated in his hand written memorandum of November 24, 1963, the *Warren Report* stands as a monument to *spin control*.

Your article, like the *Warren Report*, relies on carefully tuned phraseology to paint the portrait of a lone assassin who happened to have a job along a Presidential motorcade route, happened to have a shoddy rifle, equipped with a poorly mounted shoddy scope, which never again duplicated the feats attributed to it, and only four bullets; no more were ever produced. The lone assassin, by himself, built a *sniper's nest* consisting of some 24 boxes weighing approximately 50 pounds each, an exertion of some magnitude for the 12 minutes allotted, without leaving any fingerprints on those boxes; the *Warren Report* was silent on this significant issue. The lone assassin, immediately following his major physical exertion, accurately fired multiple shots at the President of the United States, killing him, and wounding the Governor of Texas. We are told that one fully jacketed military bullet with, for a rifle, a relatively low muzzle velocity, inflicted seven non-fatal wounds on two men and emerged, to be conveniently found on an unidentified hospital gurney, virtually pristine. A reconstruction, in a different automobile with different physical characteristics, is offered as proof. A second, identical type bullet, shattered into so many pieces, as to be virtually unrecoverable, except that the autopsy doctors describe internal entrance and external exit bevelling of the President's skull. The fact that a significant portion of the bullet would be required to maintain sufficient energy to bevel the skull upon exit notwithstanding, the same doctors simultaneously describe a cloud of bullet fragments in the President's head; it cannot be both, and large fragments have never been produced. The assassin escaped, without leaving any fingerprints on the weapon or the bullet cartridges, to be later apprehended and himself murdered.

Your article may assuage the feelings of those who authored the *Warren Report*, but it does little to clarify the unresolved issues created by publication of the government's report. Whether Oswald acted alone or not, the major question of *why* John Kennedy was killed remains

unresolved and was avoided by the Warren Commission. If Oswald acted alone, the Warren Commission was unable to provide a motive, the bulk of their own evidence indicating he had none. If Oswald acted in concert with others, or was a *patsy* as he described himself, the issue of *why* assumes an importance beyond measure. The question *why* is a virtual Sword of Damocles hanging above the head of every succeeding President; bullets not ballots changed our government.

The *Warren Report* is the single gunman hypothesis which shares the stage with a plethora of conspiracy theories. Given what we know about governmental cover-up and aversion to truth, the fact that it was produced by the same government and its agencies who had failed their protective mission should give pause to any who considers its case.