

Hal Verb  
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4/27/93

Dear Hal,

Thanks for your letter on the Chicago confab. There are other things of which I've heard that I'm sorry you were not aware of or did not report. Like what Lundberg said. But maybe I'll yet get that. That interests me more than the retreads.

What you say about Willis' photos I believe is correct from what he told me in 1967. I then arranged for them to go to NYC and show his pic to Billings, then at LIFE. I do not recall how many more than those he published he had but neither he nor Billings considered them to have any special value. My recollection is that all were taken later.

My experiences with Tony Summers lead me to have little faith in what he says and not to have a high opinion of him as a person. I suppose his wife was looking for a copy of my Oswald in New Orleans because Summers is working on a Frontline commemoration show with Scott Malone and Gus Russo to be a profile of Oswald.

It is typical of Mark Zaid that he has started an organization he will dominate and will promote him with great exaggeration. It is to be of "Professional and Analytical Researchers." What is a "professional" researcher? The only profession he has in mind is lawyer, which he just became. How analytical they can be is reflected in his literature you sent. Like a subcommittee on "JFK body alteration," that fakery of Liftons. An organization of no members with more than 20 subcommittees on the first page alone? And serious inquiry has one of the six "examples of committee" on the first page on "theories & speculation" while on that same page, under "scientific/investigative techniques" he has "eyewitness evaluation" but nothing on ballistics, spectrographic or neutron activation analysis. Mark's interest is in making Mark famous. I'm not taking the time to read the rest.

The five doctors on the 12/92 letter to JAMA are ignorant of the subject matter and were unfortunately influenced by Livingstone's High "rash 1 and 2. While their purposes are good when they go into the alleged forgery of the autopsy film and are ignorant of Post Mortem, using a bit of it as Livingstones, and although he has it in his biblio. making no effort to get it, they are at least too hasty, uninformed and misinformed to accomplish anything of meaning. Too bad. They intend well.

I'm glad to have the stuff on the motorcade for archival purposes. Thanks. But do not spend any money for me on the photographic work you mention and the flyer describes. I would like it for archival purposes but would not take time for it now.

I am pleased, of course, that so many spoke so well of me there. This has always been reflected in my mail but for a couple of years, much more than before. At my age I am glad to have this reflection of appreciation for what I've done.

Thanks and best wishes,

Hal

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HAL VERB  
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4-23-93

HAROLD WEISBERG  
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DEAR HAL =

I WAS GOING TO TYPE THIS LETTER BUT I'M A SLOW TYPIST & I DECIDED THAT MY HAND-WRITING IF I PRINTED IT WOULD BE FASTER AND LEGIBLE, SO HERE GOES.

TO BEGIN WITH, REGARDING YOUR LETTER OF 4/13/93 IN WHICH YOU ASKED IF I HAD ANY INFORMATION OR LETTERS BY LIVINGSTONE WITH RESPECT TO OTHER CRITICS, NO, I'M AFRAID NOT. HE DOESN'T CORRESPOND WITH ME. I HAD CONTACT WITH HIM IN DALLAS IN 1992 AT THE CONVENTION AND THERE HE CIRCULATED A LETTER BLASTING THE ORGANIZERS OF THAT CONVENTION (I'M CERTAIN I SENT YOU A COPY BUT IF YOU NEED IT I'LL LOCATE IT & XEROX IT FOR YOU). HE OFFERED ME \$50.00 TO DO RESEARCH FOR HIM ON HIS INTEREST IN H.L. HUNT BUT I TURNED IT DOWN. HE BEHAVES VERY BADLY AND BESIDES WHICH, AS I TOLD HIM, I DON'T MAKE A PRACTICE OF TAKING MONEY BEFOREHAND, AND I'VE NEVER OFFERED INFORMATION FOR SALE. I BELIEVE I WASN'T THE ONLY PERSON THERE IN DALLAS HE WAS THROWING MONEY AROUND (HE SEEMED TO HAVE A LOT ON HAND) PROBABLY DUE TO THE SUCCESS OF HIS BOOK BEING ON THE N.Y. TIMES BEST SELLERS LIST. I DO WISH I COULD PROVIDE YOU WITH MORE ON LIVINGSTONE BUT I CAN'T.

NOW, LET ME TELL YOU BRIEFLY ABOUT THE ENCLOSURES WITH MY LETTER. THE TODD VAUGHAN MOTORCADE LISTING IS THE ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND I'VE SEEN. I MET HIM IN CHICAGO & AM IN TOUCH WITH HIM BY MAIL. I'M TRYING TO GET WHATZEL LISTINGS HE HAS ON THE PHOTOS APART FROM WHAT I'VE DONE (I NOW HAVE A LISTING THAT IS 142 NAMES & SOURCES - IT NEEDS MORE WORK BUT HOPEFULLY WHEN I FINISH IT I CAN SEND YOU A LISTING OF WHAT I HAVE).

THE OTHER ENCLOSED WERE ALL HANDED OUT AT THE CHICAGO CONFERENCE I ATTENDED EXCEPT FOR THE JOHN WOODS PAGE ON HIS BOOK ON THE PHOTO RESEARCH HE'S DONE. I'VE ORDERED A COPY (HE HAIN'T SET A PRICE BUT I TOLD HIM TO RESERVE A COPY FOR ME. I ASSISTED HIM IN VERIFYING NAMES & SOURCES).

NOW TO GO ON TO OTHER MATTERS = THERE WILL BE AN ASSASSINATION CONFERENCE FROM AUG. 19 TO AUG. 22 AT LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY IN TORONTO, CANADA. MARINA OSWALD IS RUMORED TO SHOW UP THERE.

NOW TO MENTION MY TRIP TO CHICAGO AND SOME OF MY IMPRESSIONS OF IT.

FIRST, I NOW HAVE IT FROM 3 DIFFERENT SOURCES THAT WILLI TOOK 27 PHOTOS IN ALL. THE SOURCES I HAVE SEEM RELIABLE ENOUGH. WERE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THIS? THE ODDS ARE MOST OF ALL THE UNPUBLISHED PHOTOS ARE MUCH LATER IN TIME AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO KNOW HOW USEFUL THEY CAN BE WITHOUT EXAMINING THEM. ONE WONDERS, THOUGH, IF WILLI CAN BE PERSUADED TO RELEASE ALL 27.

I MET JIM LESAR, WHO WAS A SPEAKER, AND INTRODUCED MYSELF TO HIM. I WAS IMPRESSED WITH HIM AND HIS TALKS BEFORE DIFFERENT PANELS. LESAR AT ONE POINT PREDICTED THAT ONE TO TWO MILLION PAGES OF DOCUMENTS WOULD BE RECEIVED IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE (NO DATE GIVEN). HE SAID 300,000 PAGES OF HSCA ITEMS WOULD BE RECEIVED IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS, SOME OF WHICH MIGHT CONTAIN FBI MATERIAL GIVEN TO THE HSCA.

I ALSO MET WITH & SPOKE WITH FOR THE FIRST TIME, ANTHONY SUMMERS AND HIS WIFE. SUMMERS TOOK A CAUTIOUS STANCE DURING HIS PANEL APPEARANCES. IN ONE TALK HE GAVE HE STATED THAT HE DIDN'T BELIEVE THAT OSWALD HAD BEEN DIRECTED BY SOME INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. HE SAID HE BASED HIS PARTY ON INTERVIEWS HE HAD WITH INDIVIDUALS IN RUSSIA (WHO APPARENTLY MET & KNEW HIM). IT WAS NOT CLEAR TO ME IF THESE INTERVIEWS INCLUDED KGB AGENTS.

BY THE WAY MRS. SUMMERS WAS GOING AROUND ASKING PEOPLE WHERE SHE COULD OBTAIN A COPY OF YOUR BOOK, "OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS,"

AND I GAVE HER MY NAME & ADDRESS IF SHE NEEDS HELP IN GETTING YOUR BOOK BUT I NEVER HEARD FROM HER. I'M NOT SURE I KNOW WHAT SUMMERS IS WORKING ON BUT APPARENTLY YOUR BOOK MUST FIGURE IN SOME WAY.

DR. LATTIMER WAS ONE OF THE PANELISTS AT THE CHICAGO CONFERENCE AND SHOWED HIS CRUDE "RE-ENACTMENT" VIDEO (TO WHICH HE REFERS TO IN THE "JAMA" 3/24/93 ISSUE). LATTIMER STATED THAT AT AROUND ZAPRUDE FRAME 160 OSWALD "TOOK A SHOT" AND "HIT A TWIG" (IT WAS STATED LIKE IT WAS ACCEPTED FACT). FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN LATTIMER IN ACTION - HE'S LIKE THE "COLONEL BLIMP" OF THE ASSASSINATION!

LATTIMER SAID HIS EXPERIMENTS OF HIS SO-CALLED "RE-ENACTMENT" WERE LIKE "SHOOTING FISH IN A BARREL... SO EASY... THIS IS LIKE BENCH-REST SHOOTING." (ALL THIS WILL BE PUT OUT IN VIDEO & AUDIO SO IT'LL BE PUBLIC DOMAIN EVENTUALLY).

AT A LATER SESSION I ASKED LATTIMER (FROM THE AUDIENCE WHERE A MICROPHONE WAS SET UP) TO GO ON RECORD STATING IF IT WAS HIS BELIEF THAT THE JFK NECK-TIE "NICK" WAS CAUSED BY A BULLET. I GOT HIM TO SAY SO PUBLICLY AND HE INSISTED, YES - IT WAS CAUSED BY A BULLET. BEFORE I ASKED THE QUESTION I POINTED OUT TO THE AUDIENCE THAT LATTIMER HAD SHOWN THE FBI PHOTO OF THE NECK-TIE (& "NICK") BUT THAT HE PASSED OVER IT QUICKLY WITHOUT COMMENTING ON IT IN HIS VIDEO (DELIBERATELY SO, IN MY OPINION). I HAD TO GIVE WAY TO THE PERSON BEHIND ME WANTING TO ASK HIS QUESTION BUT NOT BEFORE I YELLED OUT THAT THE 2 NURSES (WHO HANDLED JFK) DON'T SAY THAT THE "NICK" WAS CAUSED BY A BULLET. MY YELLED RESPONSE MUST BE IN THAT VIDEO & I'M SURE IT HAD AN EFFECT ON THE AUDIENCE (IF NOT ON LATTIMER WHO WAS PROBABLY HAPPY THAT I WAS GONE & WAS NOW FACING ANOTHER QUESTIONER).

I ALSO MANAGED TO QUESTION JUDGE BURT GRIFFIN WHO WAS ON ANOTHER PANEL. I ASKED HIM IF THERE WERE ANY RECORDINGS MADE OF THE PEOPLE WHO TESTIFIED. HE SAID NONE WERE RECORDED. I SAID WHAT ABOUT "OFF THE RECORD" CONVERSATIONS & HE SAID (OBVIOUSLY SO) NO RECORD EXIST OF WHAT WAS SAID. HE THEN ADMITTED THAT HE WAS PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR INSISTING "OFF THE RECORD" CONVERSATIONS BE MADE & SOMEWHAT APOLOGETICALLY EXCUSED HIMSELF FOR THIS. WHEN I MENTIONED THAT WHEN THERE WAS TESTIMONY BY DILLARD AND THE QUESTION OF WHO WAS IN THE 6<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR WINDOW CAME UP I POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT TWICE DILLARD HAD TO GO "OFF THE RECORD". GRIFFIN SEEMED GENUINELY SURPRISED THAT THE "OFF THE RECORD" CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE. GRIFFIN STILL MAINTAINED THAT HE BELIEVES THE WARREN REPORT IN SPITE OF IT ALL AND NEVER BUDGED FROM THIS POSITION.

AND FINALLY THERE WAS MY TALK THAT I GAVE ON THE "PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE". I STARTED OUT BY CITING YOUR WORK ESPECIALLY THE WILLIS #5 FRAME BEING EQUIVALENT TO ZAPROUDER #202. I ALSO COMMENTED ON THE FACT (AS POINTED OUT BY YOU) THAT OF THE 6 PEOPLE WHO TOOK STILL OR MOVIES OF THE ACTUAL SHOOTING THREE WERE NEVER CALLED AS WITNESSES BEFORE THE WARREN COMMISSION (NIX, MUCKLEMORE & MOORMAN). AND I POINTED OUT THAT OF THE OTHER THREE (WILLIS, ZAPROUDER AND ALTGENS) ALL WERE CALLED TO TESTIFY 8 MONTHS AFTER THE ASSASSINATION & 2 MONTHS AFTER THE COMMISSION HAD ACTUALLY DECIDED TO SHUT DOWN (IN JUNE, 1963).

I ALSO POINTED OUT JASIAH THOMPSON'S ERROR IN MISREPRESENTING THE WILLIS #5 SLIDE AS BEING POSSIBLY TAKEN AS FAR FORWARD AS FRAME #22J. (THOMPSON WAS IN THE AUDIENCE). THE ISSUE OF THE 18 1/2 FRAMES PER SECOND MATTER NEVER CAME UP EITHER WHEN THOMPSON SPOKE OR

WHEN I SPOKE BUT BELIEVE ME, HAL, I WOULD'VE BEEN READY TO DEFEND YOUR POSITION ON THIS IF IT HAD COME UP. AS IT WAS THOMPSON ACKNOWLEDGES HIS ERROR TO ME AFTER I SPOKE & I TALKED WITH HIM FOR A WHILE. PAUL HOCH WAS IN THE AUDIENCE BUT LEFT AFTER A WHILE AS THE HOUR WAS GETTING LATE.

I STARTED OUT MY TALK BY REFERRING TO THE OSWALD "BACKYARD" PHOTO. AND JUST AS I WAS STARTING TO SHOW MY SLIDES THE MODERATOR ANNOUNCED THAT AN "IMPORTANT GUEST" HAD JUST ARRIVED & THEY WANTED HIM TO GET UP AND SAY A FEW WORDS. HE DECLINED THE OFFER SAYING HE WAS THERE "TO HEAR WHAT THE RESEARCHERS HAD TO SAY." IT TURNED OUT TO BE OLIVER STONE. SO STONE SAT THERE AND HEARD ME DISCUSS NOT ONLY THE "BACKYARD" PHOTO BUT MY OTHER SLIDES WHICH INCLUDED (IN ORDER OF TIME) FILMS BY BEERS, REED, HUGHES, BETZNER, TOWNER, WILLS, ALTGERS MOORMAN, NIX & WEIGMAN. (ON THE ALTGERS PHOTO I DISCUSSED YOUR PROOF OF THE PHOTO BEING EQUAL TO Z-255). MAYBE STONE LEARNED MORE IN MY ONE HOUR PRESENTATION THAN HE DID LISTENING TO OTHERS, I DON'T KNOW BUT HE MAY HAVE LEARNED SOMETHING. HIS ASSISTANT, JANE RUSCONI, WAS ALSO PRESENT WHEN I SPOKE.

BY THE WAY IN DISCUSSING THE "BACKYARD" PHOTOS I MENTIONED THE NEW EVIDENCE I HAD COME UP WITH & IF I HAVEN'T MENTIONED IT PREVIOUSLY, HERE IT IS:

I STATED THAT IT WAS MY BELIEF THE "BACKYARD" PHOTO WAS REAL BASED ON INTERVIEWS I HAD WITH 3 PEOPLE WHO SAW THE PHOTO WHEN THEY WERE WORKING AT THE "MILITANT" OFFICE.

ONE OF THESE 3 PERSONS TOLD ME THAT WHEN SHE SAW THE PHOTO & WHO IT WAS FROM SHE IMMEDIATELY

RECOGNIZED OSWALD'S NAME AS SHE REMEMBERED IT FROM HAVING ALSO HAVING WORKED IN THE NEW YORK FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE HEADQUARTERS THEN RUN BY V.T. LEE. SHE RECALLED THE CORRESPONDENCE BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN OSWALD & V.T. LEE!

BY THE WAY, HAL, I SHOULD TELL YOU THAT NOT ONLY DURING THE CHICAGO CONFERENCE BUT ALSO IN DALLAS WHERE I ALSO SPoke PEOPLE WOULD COME UP TO ME AND THANK ME FOR MENTIONING YOUR NAME. BELIEVE ME, HAL, YOUR NAME IS HELD IN VERY HIGH REGARD BY PERSONS WHOM I JUDGE TO BE VERY SHARP AND KNOWLEDGEABLE IN THIS CASE AND THAT IS TRUE WHETHER IT BE IN DALLAS OR CHICAGO.

WELL, I'M SURE THERE IS MORE I COULD TELL YOU ABOUT MY CHICAGO TRIP BUT I THINK I'VE COVERED THE ESSENTIALS.

ONE FINAL NOTE, BEFORE I FORGET, THERE WAS A TALK BY A RADIOLOGIST, RANDY ROBERTSON, FROM MEMPHIS WHO OFFERED EXCELLENT PROOF OF A "DOUBLE HIT" TO THE HEAD COMING FROM TWO DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS. I MANAGED TO GET AN AUDIO TAPE OF HIS TALK & I THINK IT WAS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TALKS OF THE WHOLE CONFERENCE. THE "DOUBLE HIT" SUPPORTS YOUR THESIS WHICH YOU PROPOSED WAY BACK IN THE EARLY DAYS. (SUPPORT FOR ROBERTSON'S IS CONTAINED IN A RECENT "THIRTY DECADES" ARTICLE BY A DR. REILLY WHO WAS UNAWARE OF ROBERTSON. I'M TRYING TO PUT THE TWO IN TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER. I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS).

— Best,  
Hal