

Mr. Ben Bradlee, Executive Editor  
Washington Post  
1150 15 St., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20071

6.3.91

Dear Ben,

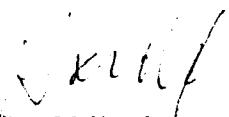
To avoid any possibility of any kind of embarrassment to the Post I send this proposed letter to the editor to you. OK if you discard it or if it is cut and edited.

Please note that Garrison had already started inquiry into these pictures in Dallas and could <sup>have</sup> easily learned the truth as the FBI and I did independently.

If you do not use the letter the enclosure should establish that I informed George correctly and he reported correctly.

Please excuse my not giving this to my wife to retype. She is retyping what I'll send Stone.

Best wishes,

  
Harold Welsberg

Letters to the editor,

6/3/91

Typical of the questions of truth and accuracy inevitable in any use of Jim Garrison's personally-invented JFK assassination theories or those he took from others and embellished is Oliver Stone's use in his movie JFK about which he wrote Outlook. ("Stone's 'JFK': A Higher Truth?" 6/2/91.

Referring to the so-called "hobo pictures" Stone accuses the Post of inaccuracy for reporting they were not arrested and were ~~photographed~~ found in a parked railroad boxcar south of the Texas School Book Depository Building and behind the Central annex Post Office about 90 minutes after the shooting.

Stone writes that these were "arrested", that it was about "25-30 Minutes" after the shooting and that "They were taken from a train behind the Book Depository." He cites no source and he is 100 percent incorrect, the Post entirely correct.

Following disinformational misuse of those pictures relating them to the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., I loaned copies to the FBI. This led to its investigation of them in Dallas reported May 21, 1968, of which I attach a copy.

The co-publisher of the paper whose photographer took the pictures, the three policemen involved and the Sheriff and one of his deputies were interviewed. The result is an even greater contradiction of Stone. It confirms two independent investigations made for me as part of the damage-control time I spent in New Orleans during Garrison's "probe".

One of these investigations was made by my friend Henry Wade, then the District Attorney. He sent one of his staff to investigate and he reported the results to me. The other was made by Paul M. Rothermel II, the Oil Magnate H.L. Hunt's chief of security. Wade and Rothermel are former FBI agents.

Garrison had planned to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the JFK assassination by use of these "Tramp Picture" by charging a man who had killed himself 15 months before JFK was killed and another also innocent with being Grassy Knoll assassins.

The investigations reported to me were reported with complete accuracy by the Post. The men were winos, drunks, not tramps. They were found in a box car behind the Central annex Post Office, it was 90 minutes after the shooting and they were walked past the book warehouse only because that was the only way to walk them to the sheriff's office, where a "screening" had been established.

This FBI report also states that "Bill, Bass, Identification Division, Dallas PD, identified the officer leading these men as himself, and stated that on 11/22/63, the date the photo was taken, He, Marvin Vaughn and Marvin Wise had found three men in a boxcar about a mile from the Texas School Book Depository down the ~~tracks~~ railroad tracks. They were brought to the Dallas County SO (Sheriff's Office..."

I did not give the Post this FBI report because in their recollections the policeman made the distance from the ~~scene~~ scene of the crime greater than I knew it was.

Post readers have a choice ~~between~~ believing Stone, who cites no source, and the three policemen who walked those drunks past the anxious photographers who snapped at every motion, natural under those conditions, Stone having without any authority at all ~~having~~ disputed the results of the investigation made for me in an effort to avoid another disaster upon which Garrison was already launched.

Harold Weisberg

*H. Weisberg*  
Frederick, Md.

Stone was incorrect on everything except the number of men photographed. They had not been found in a "train" but in a parked boxcar and it was not "behind" the book warehouse but some distance south of it.

SAC, BALTIMORE (44-869)

8/21/68

SAC, DALLAS (44-2649) (RUC)

MURKIN

OO: MEMPHIS

Re Baltimore airtel to Dallas dated 5/3/68.

Enclosed herewith for Memphis and Baltimore is one copy of Dallas teletype to Oklahoma City dated 4/24/68.

The following investigation was conducted by SA BARDWELL D. ODUM:

AT DALLAS, TEXAS

On 5/14/68, FELIX MC KNIGHT<sup>D</sup>, co-publisher of "The Dallas Times Herald", advised that it appeared to him that the alleged newspaper artist's sketch appeared to have been made by someone who was looking at the photo of the unknown lookalike, both photos furnished by the Baltimore office of the FBI. He advised that BILL ALLEN is now employed by the API at Little Rock, Arkansas. He produced the negative from which the close-up was taken. It shows a Dallas Police Officer leading three men followed by another Police Officer away from the front of the Texas School Book Depository.

*Do we have this?*

On 5/15/68, BILL BASS, Identification Division, Dallas PD, identified the officer leading these three men as himself, and stated that on 11/22/63, the date the photo was taken, he, ROY VAUGHN, and MARVIN WISE had found three men in a boxcar about a mile from the Texas School Book Depository down the railroad tracks. They brought them to the Dallas County SO and turned them over to an unknown Deputy Sheriff. He did not know the names of these individuals and did not know if they were booked.

On 5/15/68, officers MARVIN WISE and ROY VAUGHN advised that they could add nothing to the information furnished by BASS, confirmed what he had furnished and advised

- 2 - Baltimore (Enc. 1) (RM) *W*
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 1) (RM)
- 3 - Dallas (1 - 44-2649) (1 - 105-815)
- (1 - 89-43)

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*ll*  
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BDO:jad  
(7)

*E*

*Hester* *JK*

DL 44-2649

they did not know the identity of the Deputy Sheriff or the three men they brought in.

On 5/16/68, JAMES D. KITCHING, Dallas County SO, advised that he is in charge of the Identification Division, and that he had personally looked up the jacket and photo of each person booked on 11/22/63, and did not find anyone who bears a resemblance to the persons appearing in the photo with Dallas policeman BILL BASS. He advised that this indicates that these persons were not booked but they may have been interviewed. He advised that a sort of screening office was operated by the Dallas County SO on 11/22/63, and numerous persons were interviewed. He advised that without the names of the persons it would be almost impossible to develop the name of the persons in the photo.

On 5/17/68, Sheriff BILL DECKER, Dallas County, advised that he does not know who the men are in the photo taken by BILL ALLEN, but that recently this same photo had been shown to him by someone representing JIM AGARRISON, DA, New Orleans, Louisiana. He stated he did not know the significance.

On 5/17/68, FELIX MC KNIGHT advised that he had received a telephonic inquiry from the head of the Associated Press in New York, New York, apparently inquiring about this same photo. The AP information had originated from a press release by TRENT GOUGH, a Canadian actor who says he is connected with the Citizens Committee of Inquiry and the Kennedy Assassination Inquiry Committee, 243 West 54th Street, New York.

For the information of Memphis and Baltimore, a photo of the same close-up as that submitted by Baltimore was furnished to SA CHARLES A. BLOSSFIELD on 4/23/68, by AL CHAPMAN, member of the Ku Klux Klan, Dallas, Texas. He declined to say where he got this photo. (See enclosed teletype.)

Memphis note that instant photo has been given considerable widespread distribution. No further investigation is being conducted re same, in absence of specific instructions from OO.