

Jefferson Morley, Outlook
The Washington Post
1150 15 St., NW
Washington, DC 20071

9/20/93

Dear Jefferson Morley,

You conclude your letter of the 1⁵th by asking, How I think that people caring about the JFK assassination should proceed. I've thought about this often and the more I think of all the things have not worked and show no prospect of working the more I believe that because of all the odds against doing much than can today have any significance the only thing to do is to try to make the system work at some time if not now. This means informing one's self and then others, and with fact, not the crazy but attractive theories. I do not mean this as any kind of game. I think that the most we can now hope for is that the government will admit failure and try to do the little that can be done. When that might be dared cannot be predicted because those Hoover cloned will for some time control the FBI and there is little prospect of surviving it politically if one tangles with it.

As I see it we have a choice between trying to make the system work and just copping out. Because I regard any presidential assassination as having the effect of a coup d'etat, the deepest subversion, and because there may be some future usefulness in what I am doing, I continue to do it, in whatever form I can. Recently it is in the form of the rough drafts of books on the slight prospect that without an agent or a publisher it might happen. It is happening in one I did a year ago, titled, with a descriptive subtitle, NEVER AGAIN! A friend in publishing is going to publish it and I know no more.

In an effort to round out the record for history I had quite a bit of "Inside the JFK Assassination Industry" in rough draft. Then Posner's outrage appeared and I've switched to that. It will help round out what is the thrust of my work, that in that time of great crisis, all the institutions failed and they continue to fail. I hope I'll be here long enough to return to that. I anticipate that absent any new problem I'll have the Posner draft completed before long. Tentative title, "Hoax," again with a descriptive subtitle. Most intendedly dishonest book I can recall. A mark for exposing. But everything takes time. And I'm tired and don't have as much time as I'd like. *Pat SO and not well.*

In short, for my part I'm trying to make as much as of an accurate and honest record for history as I can. If it is not published it will exist, and those who care enough will be able to find and use it.

Although the Post has far and away the best record on this subject, it is not good. I told you of a hasty submission to oped. I think it is not expecting too much of reporters and editors to perceive without being prompted what I indicate in that piece, which I enclose. Yet to this moment I'm not aware of any attention to that ugly business of the endless media events on this subject.

Why the major media, which of course includes the Post, has abdicated on this I can only conjecture and I have not and I do not now. But that it did is without question and that today it does not care also is. It has lost its interest in asking questions, too, and publishers are exploiting that for truly outrageous commercialization and exploitations to make dirty money by merely hurting people who as a matter of fact have no real recourse or protection of any kind.

Some time after publication I was sent this marked-up Publishers Weekly story. Is it decent journalism for a trade publication to entirely ignore what I've highlighted, that a publisher is going to publish a book charging those who do not agree with its author, who I know is not rational as accessories after the fact in the JFK assassination?

Or that not ^{reporter} one on any newspaper thought that was worth asking about, asking if there is any real proof of such a nasty criminal allegation? Of course there isn't. Yet he is so confident of making money from it that he promises an initial hardback print of not less than \$50,000. (I was sent the page from his catalogue last week, not by him. He adds fraud, another crime, to what his book will say, and that also is impossible, save for the likes of him and his author.

What can we do? I take the time I do not have ^w much as I want to do as much as I can of what I've set out to do to try to inform. I did with you, and do again, and there is nothing in it for me and I seek nothing for myself. I am one person and with more who ^{one} were not unable to distinguish between chicken salad and chicken shit more could be informed. That is the way our system is supposed to work. Most of the time it simply does not want to work. But unless some effort is made it also cannot. So, weak, puny and without any influence, I do try. A bogh into a ~~tornado~~ ^{tornado} perhaps but the alternative is to abandon responsibility. And who knows? As Andy Jackson is supposed to have said, ~~one~~ one determined man can become a majority. That did happen ^{one} and was entirely unreported until I staged a media event that got one reporter into the courtroom and then when the judge commented on it, Lardner ^{two} did. ~~That~~ That was four years after the fact.

I agree, of course, that all should be disclosed. But in ^a tidal wave? How is there access to 1,000,000 pages? Yet did a single paper ask why if they can now be disclosed ^{they} could not years ago or in response to FOIA requests in which some at the least were denied?

I believe we are going to have more and more trouble unless the major media begins to think less of meeting the ~~set~~ ^{of} entertainment competition from TV and meets its traditional responsibilities in a country like ours. Which depends on it.

By the way, is it not a felony to charge an indictable offense?

Best,

Herok Weisberg

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Dear Harold Weisberg,

I was flattered by the attention of your letter of 29 August and profited (as I have often in the

past) from your thoughts about the Kennedy assassination. As for your assertion that I know

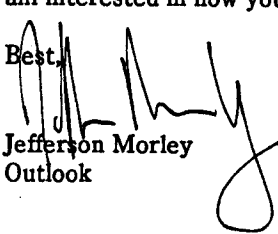
nothing and understand nothing about the assassination, I regard it the same way I regard the "magic bullet theory"--a distinct but small possibility.

To the substance of your observations: You say that I have no understanding because I wrote "To assert that Oswald acted alone is an expression of confidence in American institutions, that the executive branch and mainstream media organizations have uncovered and shared the truth about the assassination with the people." To this you reply, "The exact opposite is a tragic reality." Of course. I agree with you 100 percent. I didn't say that the executive branch and the media had uncovered the truth--only that those who (mistakenly, in my view) believe that Oswald acted alone are expressing a faith (misguided, in my view) in the System. On this issue too, I do not believe we have any disagreement.

On the usefulness of looking at the Mexico City Embassy visits and the missing photographs, I heed your warning to avoid conspiracy mongering. I only wanted to explore questions raised by the official record as a way of prompting readers to believe in the need for aggressive inquiry and full disclosure. On this question too I doubt that we have differences.

I take to heart your formulation that the crime was never investigated and never meant to be. I am interested in how you think people who care about the issue should proceed.

Best,


Jefferson Morley
Outlook