

October 26, 1992
History Department
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Stevens Point, WI
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Richard Gallen
260 Fifth Avenue
New York,
New York 10001

Dear Mr. Gallen:

Enclosed with this cover is the manuscript of part of Harold Weisberg's new work in progress, given the working title of "28 Years of Silence." He requested that I send it to you. A few words about the manuscript is necessary.

The script represents a work in progress and carries a few of those marks.

-in numbering the chapters I skipped numbers 10 and 11, believing at the time some of the earlier chapters would divide to fill those numbers. This did not occur.

The submitted manuscript totals 16 chapters--the Foreword, Chapters 1-9, 12-17.

-a few of the chapters have not had revisions of the text for typos, floating facts, and other oddments that sometimes creep into a text in progress. e.g. #17. I do not believe that any of these intrude upon the sense of the chapter. Most are minor.

-in the process of typing, correcting, and discussing with Mr. Weisberg various points we sometimes passed each other in the mail. Consequently, revised chapters and non-revised chapters do not follow an "order."

Perhaps it would be appropriate to make a few general observations about "28 Years".

I have spent many, many years reading, speaking, teaching, and studying the JFK murder and have published on it. I have taken as sub-fields i) a knowledge of the books published on the subject; and ii) the original investigation of the murder, which now consumes my time.

"28 Years" is a landmark book. Mr. Weisberg's finest hour.

Essentially it encapsulates the entire issue of the murder and the failure and refusal of officials to investigate it. As one reads the arguments builds. One thinks it is going to be about the AMA and its wretched May

19 article in JAMA. It is that, but soon other elements are woven in and gradually the cumulative impact hits you. It is more than merely an autopsy tussle. He shows beyond question by a candid person that every organic institution in American society failed in this crisis, medical, media, history, political, investigative agencies, military, etc. What ultimately is at stake is the integrity of the American nation-state system as developed in the milieu of the twentieth century's perpetual wars.

The argument is presented in factual terms, rooted in a massive documentary base of the murder and its investigation. In so doing, he sweeps before him as idle dust balls not only the supporters of the official version, but also the irrational critics and their moonbeams of theory.

It is unique.

I believe it could revolutionize the subject--perhaps for all time. It has that potential.

Sincerely

David R. Wrone
Professor of History

CC:
H. Weisberg