

Mark Zaid
47 South Lake Ave., #4
Albany, N.Y. 12203

9/21/89

Dear Mark,

I did not intend a slap in the face. I was aiming at the head.

As I think you realize, I owed you honesty. And as you may have to get to my age to understand (remember, I've been your age) I hate seeing bright and promising young people with attitudes and concepts that can be hurtful to them and inhibit the good they can do for others and for themselves. I also feared that if you continue with the attitudes I perceived, as a lawyer you could get in serious trouble.

Ask Dave Wrone if you'd like, but remember, you'll be asking quite a bit of him. Aside from his professional duties and obligations he is into many, many other things. He has very little time not already obligated.

Sure you can come and I've filed your thesis with my notes on it and will be glad to discuss them with you.

I'll be glad to try and help with your new project, too.

But remember, I've cautioned you about the irresponsible writings and by now, if you've read what you should have read, you should be in a better position to make intelligent and mature judgements.

We all make errors of judgement, regardless of our ages and backgrounds. I am also of the Vietnam generation, by the way. I was on the earliest protests, like of the authors and editors, and was a sponsor of some of the earliest marches. When I was a bit younger than you I was a conscientious objector to compulsory military training in colleges. The VN generation did not invent that, either. I've been involved in things I doubt you'd want to experience, had a law passed against me and a grand jury convoked to "get" me and survived all of that and much more. I don't think your generation had any perspective very different from mine and for the most part no personal experiences and problems to compare. I doubt you are more distrustful of the government than I and doubt you have nearly as much reason to be. Perhaps you are beginning to get the idea that I'm addressing a rush to judgement as well as a self-justification in the sense of your letter there is no generational gap in my comments on your thesis. The difference in physical age is, of course, great, but that does not mean in every instance what you suggest in this instance in any event.

In addition to what I think I've already said about Texas law as of 1963 and how to get access, in my first book I made a point of saying that the only applicable law was Texas law, there having been no other crime when JFK was assassinated, and that it should have been respected by the federal government. You'll find that a New York jurist, I think his name was Fein but I'm not sure, wrote an attack on me and other, me on this point, for Commentary. Arnold Fein? I think I have the piece. But you can get it and perhaps other thing like letters, from Commentary, perhaps.

You have an excellent attitude in saying that you appreciate criticisms and can grow from them. But remember, plants and trees that grow, grow from roots. ~~There's~~ Be sure the root is sound, healthy. Please think about my personal comments and if you agree, you'll have a better root, from which all grows.

Best wishes,



Arnold Weisberg

September 18, 1989

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

I received your letter the other day and I appreciate the fact you took the time to comment on my paper. The intention of the paper was to focus on the different opinions in relation to the medical aspects of the case. In doing so I wanted to present the views of those who have seriously written about the subject over the years and of course then evaluate those opinions as I saw them. I understand your position, I really do, and I appreciate it very much. When it comes to errors of judgment, you have to make a distinction between us. I have grown up in the wake of Vietnam, Watergate, and the Iran-Contra affair, to name a few of the US's mishaps.

Government scandals and conspiracies have been a regular feature of my life, so perhaps I tend to be a little more distrustful of the government, then say, yourself, who grew up in the times of the two World Wars. The two perspectives of American society tend to be a little different. Though I do feel I always try and want to fully understand others views. As to factual errors, if you have a chance I would really like to know what was misrepresented in my paper. You stated that someone familiar with the assassination, other than yourself, would be highly critical of the paper and you mentioned Dr. Wrone as an example. I will therefore send Dr. Wrone a copy of my thesis and hopefully he will have the time to go through it. Opinions from yourself and your respected colleagues such as Dr. Wrone are very important to me and I do listen to you, though perhaps it sometimes does not show.

I hope to start on my new project soon. The first order of business is to obtain the relevant law books of Texas, circa 1963. As I mentioned in a previous letter I should have an outline completed within several months and perhaps we could meet sometime early next year if that is convenient for you.

I am not at all offended by anything you said and I appreciated the

many compliments you afforded me in your letter. I am even more appreciative of the criticisms because from them I can grow. If one only received compliments all the time, they would never try to better themselves. Sometimes it is necessary to be slapped in the face once in while. It is all part of the learning procedure.

I hope to speak with you soon and the best of health to you.

Respectfully,

Mark
