

Mr. Jack <sup>W</sup>impert, editor  
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1/29/92

Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. <sup>W</sup>impert,

Today's Post report that Kevin Costner phoned to pat ~~the~~ film critic who left your magazine over her review of the Oliver Stone movie not being published prompts this letter. I had intended writing you on the 24th, when the Post carried the story of her departure. However, enfeebled at 78 and trying, in addition to all else, to make a correct record for history of Stone's incredible commercialization and exploitation of the JFK assassination were too much. What I regard as Costner's additional cheap publicity stunt, on his own or at Stone's instigation, impel me to let other matters go and to tell you what you probably have no way of knowing.

I am the one who started the public criticism of what Stone was up to, not the CIA as he has said, or "recipied" reporters in its service, or the "Establishment," and Stone knew this when he started pretending he was the victim of powerful forces to promote himself and his movie.

What has escaped attention is that he announced his film as non-fiction, as telling the people their history, who killed their President, why and how.

When I learned early last February that he was basing his movie on Jim Garrison's utterly and knowingly dishonest <sup>revision</sup> of his own history/fiasco, from personal knowledge I wrote Stone in considerable detail on February 8. I warned him that the trail of the assassins is the one trail Garrison never took, that his book was of incredible dishonesty, was a fraud and a travesty, gave him some illustrations and documentation, offered more and to respond to any questions he might have, and he did not respond.

One of the illustrations I gave him, utterly falsified in the book, is that Garrison planned to commemorate the fifth JFK assassination anniversary by charging still new assassins. When <sup>his</sup> staff failed to persuade him not to, several asked me to try and I did succeed. One of the "assassins" of 1963 he was going to charge had killed himself in New Orleans in 1962, to Garrison's knowledge.

Having been told this two months before he started shooting, Stone ignored it and proceeded with what he had been told was a fraud and a travesty, all the while persisting in puffing it as a truthful account of our history. While after getting my first letter he mitigated this when he had reason to believe the reporter might not buy it, he never, ever, abandoned it.

His cyclonic mouth blows in all directions, usually lies. Or factual ignorance.

When I was given a copy of an early script and was shocked by it I gave it and access to those of my records <sup>of INVESTIGATION</sup> the assassination that blocked Garrison's planned and very indecent "commemoration" to George Lardner. His May 19 story was 100% accurate. Stone's

June 2 response was not, as I wrote him in detail the next day. In response to that I got a snotty letter from his "research coordinator" that in context invites me to be bribed.

I think there is an important story in this, meaning including the very much more that I have, one that would be interesting and, with his Golden Globe and any additional honors he may get, be even more important and sensational.

Had I been up to it I'd have written a book, "Hoax: Oliver Stone's Mardi Gras Solution to the JFK Assassination" by Memorial Day. I think there is still one helluva book in all of this.

Or a magazine article that could be expanded into a book.

The other book Stone contracted, Jim Marrs' "Crossfire," is an incompetent compendium of all the assassination <sup>conspiracy theory</sup> nuttiness. Most of the so-called experts Stone hired are assassination conspiracy-theory nuts.

Quite aside from my Garrison files I have quite a bit now on Stone, what he has said and done, what he declined, like access to 250,000 pages of once-withheld official records while complaining that they were suppressed until 2039 or later, and fictions and lies without end.

Even on the overt commercialization and exploitation that somehow escaped any attention in the major media, I have a letter by one of his "experts" saying that Stone's interest in and use of the JFK assassination - the assassination of <sup>his</sup> allegedly revered godfather - was as a vehicle to say what he wanted to say about Viet Nam.

The man who wrote that letter is also a character in the movie.

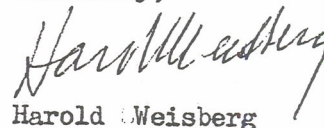
So, for reasons you could not know, your judgement was absolutely correct.

If you want to know anything about me, I suggest you speak to George Gardner. We have known each other for 25 years.

I am a former reporter, investigative reporter, Senate investigator and editor, and wartime intelligence analyst and occasional investigator and trouble-shooter in OSS.

Please excuse my typing. I am required to keep my legs elevated when not walking on them, so the typewriter is to one side <sup>and</sup> so my hunt-and-peck is worse.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg