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Subject: 1973 Film "Executive Action"

Bill:I asked Doug Horne to prepare a short memo on the film "Executive Action."To: David Marwell/ARRBcc: Jeremy Gunn/ARRB, Tim Wray/ARRB From: Douglas Horne/ARRB Date: 04/03/96 05:31:49 PMSubject: 1973 Film "Executive Action"Per your request, here's a very short synopsis of what I know about the film's origins:According to the informational material published on the dust-jacket for the videotape, the screenplay was written by Dalton Trumbo (who wrote Spartacus, and who prior to Spartacus, was "blacklisted" during the McCarthy era), based on a novel by Mark Lane (Warren Commission critic and independent researcher) and Donald Freed. However, in his 1991 book "Plausible Denial," Mark Lane qualifies all this by stating that subsequent to his 1966 critical bestseller "Rush to Judgment," the accompanying documentary film "Rush to Judgment," and his subsequent book "A Citizen's Dissent," all about the Kennedy assassination, he and Donald Freed wrote not a novel, but the first draft of the screenplay for the movie Executive Action, which he and Donald Freed intended to be a docudrama about the assassination based on the evidence. According to Lane, subsequent drafts (presumably by Trumbo) distorted their screenplay beyond what they had intended in the interests of entertainment rather than fact, to the point where they both protested, both privately to the producer and a press conferences. As a consequence, they were not listed as screenwriters. To this day Lane remains somewhat cynical about the effects banks, insurance companies, producers and film companies (and their concerns for marketability) have on attempts by people with a mission to make a serious docudrama. Other names in the research community appear in the film's credits under the title "research," but I do not know to what extent they participated, so I will not attempt to guess. END

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