

Mr. Jack Tunheim  
Chief Deputy Attorney General  
The State of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Mn.

Harold Weisberg  
7627 Old Receiver Rd.  
Frederick, MD 21702

Dear Mr. Tunheim,

Please excuse my typing and writing. They cannot be any better. In three weeks I'll be 82, I've been fortunate in surviving a number of medical problems, but one of them requires that I keep <sup>my</sup> feet elevated. That puts the typewriter to the side. When I read and correct, what I've written is in a clipboard in my left hand while I write on it while it is in the air.

Were it not that I want very much for the ARRB to succeed, to be the first agency not to disappoint and disillusion the people, I'd not be writing to you. There is much work I want to do that I'll not be able to do and any time I take from it means there is less of it that I'll be able to do.

From all the public indications and what little I've had from Harwell in writing I have the impression that you are utterly lost. What you are doing in public defies rational explanation unless it is a cover-the-ass job so you can later say you heard all who wanted to be heard. If the lives of the likes of Riscilla McMillan Johnson, Phil Melanson and that Yankee and Cowboys mythologizer Oglesby depended on their directing you to existing and withheld records they'd not live long. And how true that is of some of the others you've given prestige to their nuttiness and a kind of endorsement of it. I forgot the man who did not know too much, who is ignorant of the relevant records, Dick Russell.

One of the nuts you gave time and attention to at COPA wrote that it was not you but another member of the board who had addressed them. Not believing that he could be that wrong I wrote the other member, <sup>m</sup>Care of the National Archives. Which apparently took two months to forward that letter. In fact I wrote him twice. This week, after all this time, I got a letter from Harwell that tells me you either do not know how to succeed, do not want to, or are seeing to it that you cannot succeed.

Before that I got your proposed definition of assassination records that assures you will not succeed. It also reflects how lost all of you are in what you are to be doing. You can get from them what I sent and what they did along with any notations they may have that I do not. <sup>name</sup> But I draw you attention to what he made no reference to that I had informed the board about and his making no effort at all to get anything except from me. When he knew that for practical purposes I do not have access to most of my files.

After a friend retrieved what he wanted and I sent that to him when I had time I looked at the rest of what after denying it had anything the CIA gave me. What may be of interest is the CIA's office of security message to the general counsel instead of the one not

sent and that although all domestic activity was prohibit<sup>ed</sup>/it under its charter it kept files on some of us who opposed the Vietnam war. So, little as we like it, the fact is that we have our own version of the KGB and the Gestapo, spying on what Americans believe.

Then a friend sent me a copy of David McKee's interview of you and of others in The Reader. That date is not included on what I was sent.

He quotes you as saying that you are in a race against time. What kind of race are you in with those you've taken the time to hear?

He also quotes you as saying, "There are as many theories out there as there are people doing research about the issue." What in the world are you doing with theories? Will theories lead you to the withheld information the people should have so our system might, despite the ~~od~~ odds against it, work?

Besides which you are wrong. There are more theories than people working on them and research has been redefined if what they are doing can be called "research."

Lear, whose pessimism you do not seem to share, speaks with experience to back him up. In addition to what else he has done he handled my dozen or more FOIA lawsuits and he knows very well what the agencies have done to be able to withhold what under the law they could not withhold.

As he also knows, perjury was commonplace and it was accepted by the courts which were unhappy enough to be confronted with it that they took it out on us. One actually threatened us. I did not hide behind lawyers' pleadings. I alleged the perjury under oath myself. I made myself subject to charges if I was not truthful. Nothing happened except ~~we got it~~<sup>we</sup> got and that court accepted the most unusual of defenses, that I could make such allegations ad infinitum because I know more about the JFK assassination and its investigations than anyone working for the FBI!

Newman is also correct, although he knows little about the assassination and its investigations but very much about intelligence and the CIA records he's gone over. You do have to know where and how <sup>the</sup> records are hidden. I've given a few leads on this to some of your staff.

If you were referring to the assassination when you said that it is your job to find the documentation "so that people can go and decide for themselves what actually happened" you are still in a dream world after all these months. You cannot learn that from any record because what should have <sup>been</sup> your beginning point is unknown to you, that the crime was <sup>never</sup> ~~never~~ officially investigated and was never intended to be. Thus no such information is in any hidden files.

This should indicate to you the awesome omission in your definition of what is an assassination record. What has every probability of being the most important of the withheld information is what the agencies did to and about those in disagreement with the official mythology, most of all to that writing and those who did it.

If this and what relates to it, in the broadest sense, is not in your final definition then your purposes are not serious, whatever you may say about them, and you will be still another cause of national disillusionment.

And all the nuts you've given attention to will magnify this, making it worse.

Senator Russell, who was a member of the Warren Commission, encouraged me until his dying day. In retrospect, he realized that the Commission had left too much to its staff. Your board has little choice when you are not really active in your own work.

But it is your reputations that will be in bail until your work ends and from the way you are going, thereafter.

You'll be added to the list of commissions and committees that did not do what was expected of them, which was what they were to have done.

And if any of you had had the faintest glimmer of what it takes to be accepted, to get appropriations in Washington, you'd not have begun the way you did. The Congress, which has those opposed to what you are to do, will give it a correct reading. So will the agencies. I'm sure they have.

I think explaining this would be a waste of time. If you were capable of understanding the political realities you would have done other than you have <sup>done</sup> and still plan to do.

It is all so amateurish it is pathetic!

Maybe in time you'll come to realize that early on I gave you a few opportunities for the kind of beginning that could have meant something. I was not looking for personal attention. For years I'd declined TV that meant I'd have to take their limo to Washington. I've also declined to be on shows where I could be used to discredit those I regard as nuts. You may deceive yourself into believing something like this but there is no basis for it and those who know me and my record will laugh at you. I want only to do as much as is now possible for me in the time that remains to me. I did not even hold a press conference when my last book appeared and have no plans for doing that with the coming book. That travel is dangerous to me. If you asked me to go to Washington to testify I'd refuse. In fact, the last deposition in any of my FOIA cases was here, where there is no real media, not there. And if you were not oblivious to reality you'd by now have found what you can use very well in that deposition.

But as of my last knowledge you'd done nothing about getting the records of those court cases in the archives. They and the file cabinet of undelying appeals surely are assassination records! Could have made a real and a legitimate sensation for you and given you the public attention you'll not have gotten when you require it.

You people had a real opportunity to do something for the country, for our system, and if you had any such intention you hadn't the slightest notion of how to do it. I'm sorry for you, and for all of us.

Sincerely,  
Harold Weisberg



*Werner #21*

*Not Sent*

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Counsel

SUBJECT : Harold Weisberg

1. Reference is made to your memorandum, dated 2 January 1975, in which you requested a close search of the Office of Security file pertaining to Harold Weisberg and any other files which may contain references to his name. Of particular interest, according to your request, were items which would indicate that Mr. Weisberg had ever been subjected to surveillance activity of any type by the Office of Security.

2. The Office of Security file on Harold Weisberg disclosed that he was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on 8 April 1913 of Russian born parents. He attended the University of Delaware for three years, 1931 to 1934, without attaining a degree, and worked as a newspaper correspondent, United States Government employee and freelance writer prior to entering the United States Army in December 1942. While in military service, Mr. Weisberg served with the Office of Strategic Services in North Africa. According to a Personal History Statement, completed by Mr. Weisberg in December 1944, he was given an "Honorable-Medical" discharge from the United States Army in November 1944. A background investigation, completed in July 1944, was completely favorable as to Mr. Weisberg's loyalty and reputation. He has had no subsequent affiliation with the Agency since 1944.

4. Since 1944, the only material placed in Mr. Weisberg's Security file, in addition to the 1971 letter to Mr. Helms which you mentioned in your request, have been summaries, prepared by the Office of Security and newspaper sources, relative to the book he has written entitled "Whitewash", "Whitewash II", "Frame-Up", "Photographic Whitewash", and "Oswald in New Orleans: Case for Conspiracy with the CIA." All of these publications are critical of the Warren Commission Report, relative to the assassination of President Kennedy, and have called for additional Congressional investigation to determine the real story behind the death of the President.

5. While the name of Mr. Harold Weisberg appears in several other files maintained by the Office of Security, each of the citations pertain to Mr. Weisberg's books on his efforts on disproving the findings of the Warren Commission.

6. Mr. Weisberg's Security file reflects no information to indicate that he has ever been personally subjected to any electronic, mechanical or human surveillance of any type.

Charles W. Kane

Item #15.

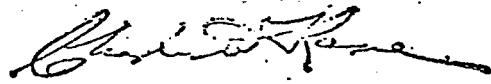
5 FEB 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Counsel

SUBJECT : Harold Weisberg

1. This memorandum will confirm the verbal advice which was provided a representative of your office on 27 January 1975 concerning the Subject.

2. Office of Security files contain no information which would indicate that Harold Weisberg has ever been the subject of technical or physical surveillance by the Office of Security.



Charles W. Kane  
Director of Security

cc: DD/A

Distribution:

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OS/PSI/RWGambino:jm (5 February 1975)

OS 50254/A

Item #22

1 February 1968

WRITERS AND EDITORS WAR TAX PROTEST

The attached advertisement appeared in the February 1968  
issue of Ramparts on page 61.

Distribution:





OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

INTEROFFICE MEMO

TO: Ernest Cuneo

DATE: October 24, 1942

FROM: David Bruce

SUBJECT:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

A Mr. Harold Weisburg had left, last autumn or winter, certain papers with Captain James Roosevelt that apparently were loaned by him to Captain Roosevelt and certain of them had been returned to him prior to Captain Roosevelt's departure for the Pacific.

On October 12, 1942, Mr. Weisburg asked for the return of the rest of his papers. They were located in the office of Mr. Wallace B. Phillips, formerly an employee of the OSS in the Apex Building--Mr. Phillips at the time being in London--and were returned to Mr. Weisburg.

As far as I can ascertain, no one now in this Branch has ever met Mr. Weisburg, had any dealings with him, had access to his papers or knows what they contain.

David Bruce

Declassified by 006627  
date 8 October 1975