

Oct. 77

Exhibit 5

Whitten Affidavit

C.A. 75-1996

AFFIDAVIT

I, Leslie H. Whitten, the undersigned, residing at 114 Eastmoor Drive, Silver Spring, Md., 20901, do swear and attest:

1. That I am a newspaper reporter and share the byline with Jack Anderson on the Washington Merry-Go-Round, the world's most widely syndicated news column; that I have worked fulltime with Anderson for eight years; that prior to that I have worked as a newsman, inter alia, with the Hearst Newspapers, as assistant bureau chief in Washington, The Washington Post, United Press International, International News Service; that I have been a newsman for 26 years; that I have won awards from the Washington Newspaper Guild, the California Health Association, the Disabled American Veterans, the Humane Society of the United States, the American Civil Liberties Union, among others.

2. That I have written voluminously for newspapers of general circulation about the two Kennedy assassinations, the Martin Luther King, Jr. assassination; that I have pursued many avenues related to both assassinations, including investigations of various CIA, FBI and other activities; grand jury probes, both state and federal; trials, hearings and diverse other offshoots of the events; that I have written extensively about other matters as an investigative reporter.

3. That beginning with the publication of Harold Weisberg's White Wash in 1966, I have had the occasion to consult with Weisberg on stories, theories and avenues to pursue in my work on the King, two Kennedy assassinations and a host of related matters.

4. That while I disagree vigorously with his theories on many aspects of these assassinations, I have found his research invaluable and even vital in pursuing the news; that he is reliable and accurate and his assessments of the importance of documents he has provided me and I have turned up on my own have been extraordinary; that I have found him uniquely reliable among the so-called "critics."

5. That Weisberg, on dozens of occasions, has cut through government red tape, using his library of documents to do so, saving time, making available material that would take months to locate in the maze of government files; that he is foremost organized, credible breaker of government monopoly on

such information; that he is contemptuous of cover-ups even when the documents seem to counter his own theories.

6. That the information from Weissberg on which I have based numerous stories, and bulwarked stories already in the works, gave them more strata of meaning; that our office of 12 other reporters have called on Weissberg for help of the same nature and has been given it; that he has helped, sometimes to my annoyance, my competitors with excellent stories (though always with the same fairhandedness with which he has helped our office.)

7. That he has steered me away from several pitfalls; that several stories looked plausible, but turned out under Weissberg's counseling to be false; that without such counseling and documentation, I would have printed false stories; that on occasions, which I hope are rare, we have gone with stories that we might not have had Weissberg not been out of pocket at the time and thus unreachable for a check; that, finally, I seldom if ever write a piece touching on the assassinations without bouncing it off Weissberg.

8. That Weissberg has done these useful works without charge, and indeed, has even sometimes paid the duplication costs from his own pocket; that the providing of these documents have been afforded to other reporters as well, to my certain knowledge; that his files are available to us at all times when he is home and that he cheerfully (with the exception of a rare grump from time to time) guided us to the best available documentation.

9. That the press absolutely cannot rely on government agencies and conventional libraries for information on the Kennedy and King assassinations and related probes; that Weissberg's very independence and the integrity of his files are essential if the issues are to be dealt with properly; that, therefore, you simply have to have someone like Weissberg to find the key documents from the 25,000 in the King case and the -- I'm guessing -- millions scattered in various files on the Kennedy cases.

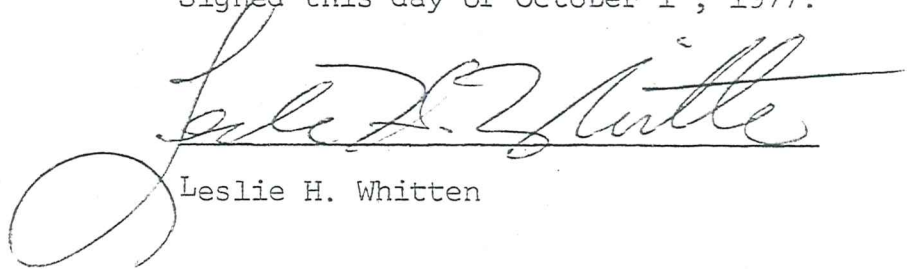
10. That any money spent to help Weissberg build up his files would be far better spent than in a government operation, and infinitely cheaper; through giving Weissberg the records free (the government really should give him a stipend and an assistant) the public will be served well as his work makes for better, more accurate, less inflammatory information being disseminated; his contribution so far in killing off kook theories and encouraging sound investigations is measureless.

11. That Weissberg helps keep the government honest, helps head off the coverups, the selected leaking, the favrications that have often characterize individuals in government. To often they have special axes to grind and special interests to protect, including their own jobs.

12. That to have the maximum number of documents in Weissberg's hand is the best way to ensure that scholars will have a record of proven worth; that his decision to donate them to the University of Wisconsin is a worthy idea.

13. That government assistance to duplicate the entire Weissberg files twice, one copy being kept on the East Coast, preferably in Washington, and one on the West Coast, perhaps San Francisco, would federal money splendidly spent, for present media people and historians and for future ones.

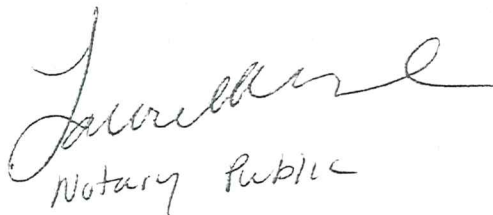
Signed this day of October 1, 1977.


Leslie H. Whitten

District of
Columbia

Sworn and subscribed before me this 17th day of
October, 1977




Notary Public

My Commission Expires January 14, 1982