

Weisberg Wallops Whitewashers

LOS ANGELES FREE PRESS

What is the press going to remember its near-sacred function in this country? At what point are the writers, editors and agencies to become disgusted with their pimpery and recapture their integrity and that of our country with it? When will you ask, "suppose the Report is wrong?" When will you even make an honest effort to find out?"

This castigation of the American press' role in covering up the facts of the Kennedy assassination is from a letter to Julius Fransden, Vice-President of UPI, by Harold Weisberg, author of "Whitewash," a book critical of the Warren Commission Report.

Weisberg's letter dealt mainly with an article, issued by UPI and published nationally last month, written by Merriman Smith, UPI White House reporter and winner of the 1964 Pulitzer Prize for his eyewitness reporting of the assassination.

Weisberg noted that in his recent article Smith placed himself "a few hundred feet from Kennedy when he was shot," at the famous underpass from which shots were heard by some witnesses and located in front of the President's car; but that in his original story from Dallas on the day after the shooting, he stated that he was "150 or 200 yards behind "Kennedy's limousine.

In both stories Smith states that there was not the "slightest doubt" in his mind that the shots came from behind him, meaning that, according to his original account, the assassin could not have been in the Texas Schoolbook Depository, where Oswald is alleged to have been at the time.

Weisberg's letter to Fransden declared, "It (Smith's article) is a monumental intellectual dishonesty."

Has it not occurred to any of the press that, when it consults sources that have palmed off the biggest lie in our history, to the entire world, they have little to lose with another lie to an individual?"

In his letter Weisberg challenged Smith to a debate at the National Press Building where UPI is headquartered. Chicago radio station WBBM picked up on Weisberg's challenge and invited the UPI reporter to face Weisberg in Chicago on Dec 13 when Weisberg will be there. No word has been received from Smith to date. --Hal Verb

FLA

HAROLD WEISBERG'S

Schedule

Harold Weisberg will be in the Bay Area from Wednesday, December 14 to Friday, December 16. Author of the controversial book "Whitewash," a devastating attack on the Warren Commission, Mr. Weisberg will make the following appearances during his brief stay:

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

10 a.m. -- Press Conference
3:20 p.m. -- KCBS - Radio - "Spectrum 74: Fred Wilcox Show"

9:05 p.m. -- KNEW Radio - "Joe Dolan Show"

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

6:00 a.m. -- KGO-TV - "A.M. SHOW"

12:00 (Noon) - KTVU-TV - "Mel Venter Show"

2:00 p.m. -- Paul Elder's Bookstore, Sacramento & Sutter, San Francisco (will autograph his first and second book)

4:00 p.m. -- KPFA-FM Radio - Weisberg interviewed (to be aired at a later date)

8:35 p.m. -- KCBS-Radio - "Harve Morgan Show"

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

3:00 p.m. -- KPIX-TV - "Pow" Show (to be aired at a later date)

8:00 p.m. -- Militant Forum: "Who Killed Kennedy" - Harold Weisberg and Ed Keating - Hall of Flowers, 9th & Lincoln Way, S.F.

1725