

CYRIL H. WECHT, M.D., J.D., F.C.A.P.  
CORONER

JOSHUA A. PERPER, M.D., LL.B., M.Sc.  
CHIEF FORENSIC PATHOLOGIST

CHARLES L. WINEK, PH.D.  
CHIEF TOXICOLOGIST

STANLEY M. STEIN, ESQ.  
SOLICITOR

JAMES F. BENTZ  
CHIEF DEPUTY CORONER



# County of Allegheny

542 FOURTH AVENUE • PITTSBURGH, PA. 15219

(412) 355-4460

OFFICE OF THE CORONER

February 8, 1977

Letter to the Editor  
The New York Times  
229 W. 43rd Street  
New York, New York 10036

Dear Sir:

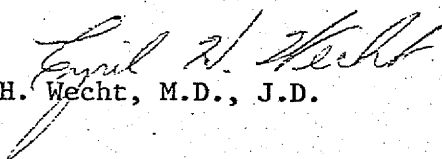
I was quite disturbed by an article in the February 6 edition of The New York Times entitled "C.I.A. in '67 Acted to Belie Critics of Warren Panel" (page 27, col. 1), which revealed among other things that the C.I.A. deliberately gave unclassified information about the JFK assassination to "assets who could use the material in writing book reviews and feature articles that would answer and refute the attacks of the critics." Apparently, in this context, the phrase "C.I.A. assets" is synonymous with either C.I.A. part-time agents or other individuals, who for some reason or another, are available to the C.I.A. for clandestine purposes such as this.

The brevity of the article is what shocked me the most. Where are the cries of moral indignation, shock and outrage by The New York Times that one would expect regarding the illegal and unethical misuse of news media sources by secret agent-journalists posing as pseudo-researchers in a reprehensible attempt to attack and undermine responsible critics of the Warren Commission Report? Has The Times checked its own files to determine whether any of these C.I.A. sponsored writers had articles that were published in your newspaper? My memory is quite clear that there were several "book reviews and feature articles" by WCR supporters published by The New York Times in past years that quite likely fell into this category. I would hope that The New York Times would be very interested in checking into this matter further to determine if it had been used in such a surreptitious and deceptive fashion by the C.I.A.

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This is the kind of information that the House Select Committee on Assassinations will continue to uncover in the months ahead if its investigative activities are not severely limited and compromised. It may yet be possible to determine the complete truth about the JFK assassination and the roles played by various groups, including the C.I.A., in that tragic affair.

Very truly yours,

  
Cyril H. Wecht, M.D., J.D.

CHW/lfb