

2/5/69

Prof. Francis L. Lowenhein
Rice University
Houston, Texas

Dear Mr. Lowenhein,

Enclosed is a copy of today's Washington Post story with Dr. Rhoads' response to the charge of secrecy. I did not see this in yesterday's Post, but I did catch the CBS morning TV new interview relating to it.

This type of general denial of obvious truth is one I have had much experience with in my own work. It is for this purpose that I write you. In my extensive experience in using the archive on the Warren Commission, I have caught to government in the most incredible lies, suppressions, distortions, misrepresentations and partiality. I have several cases of being refused what I asked for on the ground it was classified only to have the identical material provided writers not in a position to understand what they were reading. The predictable result is that an official view is presented in their writing, a view not consistent with the true nature of the documents or their contents. Some of these are quite shocking.

Recently, they have adopted a new device, very long delays in responding and then responding incompletely. I can produce requests for unclassified material now almost a year old and now filled, where all that was necessary was the xeroxing of a page, for which I pay in advance by maintaining a deposit account.

Should you and your colleagues want to make an issue of this, as I hope your dedication to the integrity of scholarship - indeed, of society - dictates, you may have access to my extensive files.

What you are concerned about is much more minor, in the importance of contents, than what is here involved. I can even prove government destruction of the most vital evidence. When I say "prove", I mean I found the receipts for it! We have a government that burns history, burns evidence. It is Orwell.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg