

July 21, 1967

Mr. Alan E. Helseth
Executive Director
American Civil Liberties Union
1911 Torrance Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

Dear Mr. Helseth:

In our previous correspondence I inferred that the net effect of your public statements was not to serve their stated purpose, commendable as that is, but to make you a partisan.

Since that time certain things have transpired in New Orleans and are a matter of public record on which I would think, with these stated purposes, you might before this have seen fit to comment.

Charles Bringuier, one of the few men who might, in all seriousness, call Robert Welch a pro-Communist, has filed several completely frivolous suits. First, he filed a suit against Saga magazine and he over an article in Saga that was actually chapter 11 of my book, WHITELASH. Then he added the Dell Publishing Company. As I am certain you know, testimony before the Warren Commission, which is what I quoted and he alleges to be the basis of his suit, is totally privileged.

Now he has filed a suit against his neighbor, Groeste Penn, who has written nothing but who, under compulsion, was a witness before that Commission. I have not seen the papers, but I gather from Mr. Penn he is being sued for his sworn testimony.

I have now published the third part of my analysis of the Warren Commission's work and the assassination. I am seeking to have it distributed in the New Orleans area, and I find that Mr. Koufa, of the Louisiana News Company, refuses to handle the book, for which there seems to be a promising market in your area, simply because he is afraid that an additional suit will be filed against him.

Now, this new book does not refer to Mr. Bringuier, but I suggest to you that the purposes of filing a frivolous suit that can have no standing are immediately served by the achieving of two objectives: the suppression of my writing, which denies me and your citizens each our rights, and the intimidation of witnesses, for Mr. Penn has already been counseled that he had best keep his mouth closed and say nothing. It is my personal knowledge that he agreed to testify before the grand jury.

I find your silence on this matter disturbing, especially because you have refused to withdraw these allegations you now know to be untrue that you made against me. I wonder if they, too, are not part of Mr. Koufa's thinking and apprehension.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg