

Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701
8/14/74

Mr. John A. Walsh, Managing Editor
Rolling Stone
625 Third St.,
San Francisco, Ca. 94107
Dear John,

Response to your question of August 8 about Mr. Kaiser's work necessarily is opinion. My opinions are based on ten continuous years of long days' work for which I had a background as an investigative reporter, Senate investigator and intelligence analyst.

It is my opinion that the JFK assassination and its investigation is not appropriately the subject of journalistic inquiry. It is my opinion that Mr. Kaiser has done no real work on this assassination and has displayed (in *Life* and *Sunday* magazine) a disqualifying prejudice against those of whom he would prefer to be writing in your pages. It is my opinion that no one who has done what can be regarded by reasonable and informed people as real work on this assassination has advanced "conspiracy theories" as distinguished from addressing proof of conspiracy. And it is further my opinion that those who have been made into something when they are nothing by the irresponsible and inordinate attention they have received in the *alternative* press are at best nuts and too often the most dubious characters. That they may be sincere (and in most cases I believe they are) is irrelevant. Fact and truth and what should be the controlling considerations. So, also at best, the kind of piece I understand you project would further obscure truth and would be unreal in that it would elevate these dubious characters who have done no real work into the symbol of all work and the small number of real workers.

The difference is between noise and music.

Mr Kaiser has already demonstrated an inability to discriminate or even report accurately in his piece on the CIA abortion at "eorgotwen."

The net result of all the inordinate attention to these self-promoters and the frightful stuff they spew out is that no editor of any of the major media is willing to consider that anything on the subject is other than nutty. This also applies to politicians who at some point might help establish truth.

If you want to discuss this or anything that Mr. Kaiser or anyone else submits, my phone is 301/473-8186.

However, if you want to see an example of the kind of use that is regularly made of this focal outpouring, read the motion just filed by the State of Tennessee in its continuing effort to deny James Earl Ray a trial. Samples are attached to it. Jim Lesary, 1231 4 St., SW, Washington 20024, may be willing to make a copy for you but he, as we all are, is unpaid for his work, which is the drafting of all the legal papers, so I would suggest that you not saddle him with the xeroxing cost.

What I might submit ranges from ~~many~~ numerous articles to books. In fact, the fourth of the Whitewash series is now completed, is camera-ready except for the index, and may well be available for distribution. Subsidiary rights are also available. I am rushing it because of several areas of topicality. Tomorrow I see my artist on the cover. There are so many possibilities for responsible writing without knowing your interests makes going into them by mail impractical. However, you now have a Washington representative, who would be welcome here, but an hour away. There would then be no question of "documentation" (a question you cannot have applied to any responsible writing on "conspiracy theories"). That you ask this question of me indicates that you are not familiar with any of my work, particularly my books.

In this new book I make short reference to a secret relationship I had with the late conservative Senator/Narron Commissioner Richard Russell. Some time ago I did a rough draft on this. It can be illuminated with some of his letters to me and with a fair number of documents still bearing TOP SECRET stamps. To his dying day he encouraged me to expose the failures of the [redacted] a member. I had put into his hands what amounted to break a long [redacted] to resign his oversight responsibilities. He had forced a secret session [redacted] of the [redacted] report. He believed that as always [redacted] His objections were money-bailed with the [redacted] first two pages of this fake transcript [redacted] in [redacted]. If this interests you I can send this [redacted] edit and shorten. However [redacted] would [redacted] an enormous amount of work involved in this kind of [redacted] If the [redacted] want to use [redacted] your representative [redacted] of every transcript of any [redacted] reporter and what he took in [redacted] proceeding out of Washington [redacted] to respond further to your ques [redacted] archive [redacted] will be beyond [redacted]

In this book I also deal briefly [redacted] most use of the Freedom of Information [redacted] courts is largely by a decision in [redacted] already amended it, specifically to [redacted] that of my cases that reached the [redacted] wrote a decision in which he said [redacted] Neither major nor alternative media [redacted] restrict look like a first-amendment [redacted]

In order to publish the first [redacted] "underground" book. [redacted] Interest in this is [redacted] at [redacted] take, yet Whitewash [redacted] The impossibility of [redacted] that enduring work [redacted]

If you think my expressions [redacted] from the belief that the world turned the [redacted] was turned around with it. Vietnam would have [redacted] deleted obscenity would not have been President [redacted] succeeded by one I believe we can expect to rush [redacted] (I have much on Ford, some used in litigation, some [redacted] almost completed Watergate manuscript, titled in A [redacted] Nixon.) I am also aware that trusting editors who can [redacted] be [redacted] the creatures of writers they have no reason not to trust. So, [redacted] believe that editors should impose upon themselves the highest [redacted] considered of responsible judgements. If they do not the people [redacted]

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg