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Dear Mr. Neichter

Thank you so much for your material on Senator Cooper. While I did not find much that was of major importance to me, as you commented in your covering letter, it did affirm my picture of him and assists me greatly in the brief portion of the chapter I have in my proposed book on the Warren Commission relating to the members. I trust Bill Cooper came through for us all in his donations and I awaiting your commentaries on it, if such they be and you have the time.

I have not written a review of the JFK movie. I was so appalled by the thing and by the mad rush to embrace it that I backed off; I did speak like hell on it in Wisconsin, radio, newspapers, and television. Perhaps I should write a synopsis of my views. This will take me a bit as I am pressed by a few things on school and research and typing.

I am intrigued by your intention to do an oral interview with Harold Weisberg. He is a difficult subject to interview in general--he just moves with you in a pleasant way and seems bottomless. I suggest that you might try to focus on one particular aspect with him, that is the way to jostle his memory buds and get his juices flowing. As you know one of his arguments--and the one that attracted me to him in the first place and the one that has held me firm--is that the institutional order of the nation failed during this crisis of the assassination. This is in all facets of the society.

I suggest you might wish to focus around the legal aspects of his many cases, the lawyers, the law, the judges, the issues of law, fact, etc. that are really paramount in coming to terms with what happened. They are a paramount case of swinage. That the legal system failed us is a major fact; without direction Harold might lead you primarily into the Commission lawyers and their ilk, although that is enchanting and truly necessary to do ultimately. But the issues are, as he will quickly say, wider. For example his many cases under FOIA, the House Select, the court rulings, etc. I think a splendid book awaits to be written on "The Day the Heavens Fell: Law, Justice, and the Kennedy Assassination, a Study in the failure of the legal system in a time of crisis."--or something like that. Harold is a bottomless source for this. At any rate this might be one way to move into his mind and would be helpful as a first step.

I would observe further that this type of subject matter

written on the highest level of seriousness and with philosophical perspective would fit admirably with Holmes, Pound, and Lincoln. If you proceed along this line at all I believe you will find Holmes dissents especially enlightening as well as the admonitions of the Pound school on the idea of justice and the law as the organizing principle of the good society. America sorely needs such work.

I have tried to understand the so-called mysterious deaths and have come to the conclusion that it is part of a syndrome of the people, an attempt to wrap in mystery what they do not fully understand, but know is wrong--the official solution of the murder. There are no mysterious deaths, even the earliest so called deaths of a newspaper writer, etc. FActually this is true. Logically it is too. Thus, Whaley, the cab driver was a fool, truly, and had no evidence at all that meant anything to a conspiracy coverup. He testified to the physically impossible such as taking Oswald to the corner of two streets that ran parallel, that Oswald wore two jackets when he in fact wore none and that he picked the wrong person from the line up. He died in a car wreck late at night, killed by an 80 year old man who jumped the abutement. The old man died. WHY kill a fool? Did the CIA have 80 year old suicide killers? ETC. with all the deaths.

Your exhibits interest me.

I have put your calendar up on my wall and will think of you throughout the year and wish you and your wife a pleasant 365.

With regards

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