



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

Address Reply to the
Division Indicated
and Refer to Initials and Number
CWB:JRR:jac
129-11

MAR 26 1969

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Coq d' Or Press
Route 8
Frederick, Maryland

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Attorney General Mitchell has referred your recent letters relating to the "Warren Commission" to me for consideration and reply. From those letters and previous correspondence it is plain that further exchange of correspondence between yourself and the Department of Justice on this matter will serve no useful purpose. You are, of course, welcome to communicate your views to us and they will receive due consideration.

It is unfortunate that the change in Administration has not and apparently will not make you certain that the element of politics played no role in the investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy or the formulation of the guidelines for release to the public of information on the matter in Government files. In our view, the substantial correctness of the Commission's Report remains unimpeached by any recent developments. There is no reason to believe that further investigation would serve to eliminate the doubts you and others have voiced, and, while we do explore possible new information which comes to our attention, we see no basis for reopening the primary investigation. We do appreciate the sincerity of your offer of assistance to us.

As to your allegation that agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation have slandered you, it should hardly be necessary to inform you that such conduct would be in complete disregard of Departmental and Bureau policy. We have sent a copy of your letter to the Director of the Bureau for his consideration and such action as he may deem appropriate.

With respect to the admission of perjury on the part of Dean Andrews, we are, as you surmised, well aware of developments in that regard. As the matter involves a possible criminal prosecution you can appreciate, I am sure, that comment by us to you at this time would be inappropriate. However, in your evaluation of Federal action or inaction on this subject you should consider the fact that substantially the same misconduct, though before another forum, is currently under consideration in the courts of the State of Louisiana. This raises two factors for consideration. First, whether Federal action would amount to intervention in the State proceedings, and second, whether misconduct relating substantially to the same acts of an individual should be made the subject of successive state and Federal prosecutions.

No doubt you intend to pursue your inquiries into the assassination. Hopefully, the release of additional materials in the files, as the passage of time or other events make it possible, will serve to answer some of your questions. Again, may I say, we will welcome receipt of your views from time to time, for, though our views on the means may differ, we seek as you do to serve the best interests of the Nation on this grave subject.

Sincerely,

WILL WILSON
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

By:


CARL W. BELCHER

Chief, General Crimes Section