

Senator Richard Schweiker
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
8/21/77

Dear Dick,

After your assassinations subcommittee received the Hoover memoranda about those of us who had written books contradicting the Warren Commission I wrote you and Senator Hart asking for what Hoover had provided on me. Neither of you responded.

Neither the FBI nor any other agency had by then begun to comply with my FOIA requests going back to early 1971 or my subsequent PA requests. From some I have now had partial compliance, including most recently limited compliance by the FBI. Not one is in compliance. All continue to withhold. In all cases I have proof of withholding.

What I have received from the FBI includes the Hoover letter to Marvin Watson for LBJ and an expurgated version of the attached memorandum on me. What was not obliterated ranges from deliberate misrepresentation to outright fabrication. This characterizes the rest of the records thus far provided by the FBI.

One could write books about such things. Neither you nor I nor Senator Hart, to whom I am sending a copy, has time for this. My purposes in writing you now are more limited. One is to preserve my reputation in your files. The venom I have received was widely distributed by those who practiced McCarthyism before he was inflicted on the nation.

The most sensational of the lies about me is that I held an annual celebration of the Russian revolution at my home, attended by about 25-35 people. They sure were anxious for me to be celebrating the Russian revolution because it was two months in advance of the anniversary. That revolution was in November. My "celebration" was in September. It was not at my "residence," which would not accommodate so many people. I had a small but famous farm. It was not even by me, in fact. It was by the Jewish Welfare Board. The rabbi who looked out for the religious and other interests of Washington area military personnel and his wife were friends of my wife and me. He and the JWB arranged for this outing after the Jewish high holidays. The kids in particular enjoyed seeing eggs hatch and baby chicks cavorting; gather eggs from under the hens that laid them; playing with animals; and even having my tame wild geese come on call and eat from their mouths without biting them. The grown-ups also enjoyed this kind of unusual and relaxing day in the country.

(When I ceased farming I gave one of my incubators and a starting of rare ducks of my own breeding to your colleague, Mac Mathias. I taught his kids how to incubate eggs and showed them how to determine fertility and how to watch the growth of the embryos. When Charles junior was I believe less than of school age he delivered learned, illustrated lectures on the entire process to their visitors. President Eisenhower also raised my ducks at Gettysburg.)

There was no innocence the FBI did not convert into evil. You may not have been given the record but I have their report that has me receiving records from high-level Secret Service officials to "prove" that the FBI killed JFK. This clearly is a fabrication based upon my getting these records I showed you from the Secret Service. I have never believed and have never written that either the FBI or any other agency killed JFK. I received these records not clandestinely but after I used FOIA. I published them in Post Mortem, in facsimile.

If instead of credited such vicious lies you and your colleagues had been real investigators, your function, and had asked me and/or others to confront these records, you might have done the country and the government some good. One area that concerns me much from my experiences, which I recall clearly and painfully, and from these incredible records is how there is automatic control over what those in policy positions can know. In varying degrees this has been true since World War II. The mechanism is the control over "security" by the authoritarian minded. If there is no factual case against those of independence and integrity then one is fabricated. With me it was fabricated. Within the FBI, if the records I have

are complete for the period covered, the records have been ^{purged} ~~purged~~ of contrary statements by Saint Edgar himself.

Did they give you the records that represent me as having confessed a plot to defame the FBI? That ^I obtained earlier in a case now in court. That one also was easily figured out. It is exactly opposite the truth and was fabricated after I was asked to go to the DJ Internal Security Division about an indictment of that period against some of the soldier-of-fortune types who interested ~~you~~ you. Fortunately I had the correspondence that was not provided either under court order or in compliance with my PA request. It has been many weeks since I sent it to the FBI. I await even a pro forma denial - or apology. I have hours of taped interviews with a number of them, several outlining what was changed in the indictment. After offering this information I passed on what I had picked up, that an extremist outfit of the right was about to launch a defamation of the FBI. They twisted this, entirely without basis, into me conspiring with these extremists to that end. Fortunately I also had contemporaneous records on that, now in the possession of the silent FBI.

Did they give you the alleged accounts of the alleged errors in my writing? Not one is factual, not one an error on my part. Or the records that indicate an agent could sue me for defamation? I can give you the records of the FBI cooking up this scheme to "stop" me, their word, and the agent's declining. I deposed him recently, this year, in an FOIA matter. When he sought to corrupt that record I wrote him a waiver of the statute of limitations and dared him to sue me. He, too, is silent. He is Shaneyfelt, now retired.

When I have an adversary other than snake even in my present condition I can grapple with it. I have never been a communist or anything else hinted at or stated. I have criticized the FBI and the CIA and the Secret Service but I have also defended all against false charges. This is consistent. I now have the FBI's version of my first TV broadcast on the JFK assassination in New York in 1966. If I was too trusting, too conservative, sought too much to find a balance, it represents exactly the opposite of these infamies heaped upon me. The last appearance I made before a complication in the painful thrombophlebitis you may recall (I accepted your invitation on the way to the hospital, on crutches) was on Good Morning America about 6/15/77. On it I defended the FBI against Mark Lane's fabrication that the FBI killed or conspired in killing Dr. King.

I have begun to deposit all my records in a university system where they will be available to all. I have preserved all my rough drafts, all my correspondence, all my notes and with them any errors I have made. I will be content to be judged on my work. I will not be content to be judged by official lies that the Senate, unfortunately, protected and thus perpetuated. I have on my own initiative waived all my rights to privacy in this archive but I have asked for the preservation of the same rights for others in my files. I am seeking to obtain all these vile official concoctions so that I may deposit them with an answer. (Incidentally, the one agency with which I have filed an answer under PA has been silent for many months. I guess when the Senate enacts laws that does little good, either.) The PA does not apply to the records of the Senate so I hope you and Senator Hart will file this letter with whatever of the official ones you may have.

If you still have or have access to any of the records given to you about me and feel you cannot let me have copies I would appreciate an identification to check against those I receive to assure compliance and then an opportunity to file a response/correction. For this I would need only enough to identify a record, not its contents.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg