

April 5, 1992

Harold Weisberg

7627 Old Receiver Rd.

Frederick, MD 21702

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

I am sorry to hear about your poor health. You have played an incredible part in our recent history, and your skills in investigation and your loyalty to truth are still important to my generation.

Your letter was more than I expected; thank you for taking time to help me out. Most of those who are in a position to help are retired and, thus, difficult to find, so I especially appreciated your prompt and detailed response.

You are right to question my ability to adequately pursue this research topic. First, I am seventeen years old. However, I am an Eagle Scout, and have learned the values of discipline, patience, and listening to those with more experience. Pursuant to your advice, I plan to read dozens of books from many angles before I begin anything, and I'll try to take everything "with a grain of salt." You are right when you say that research materials are limited, too, due to the fact that many appropriate books are out of print. However, the University of California, Riverside, library does carry many out-of-print resources, as well as having the distinction of being an official

government book depository, and it will be my major reference location. The University library has both Sylvia Meagher's *Accessories after the Fact* and Howard Roffman's *Presumed Guilty*, both of the books that you endorsed in your letter and were concerned that I wouldn't be able to review. More difficult is the problem of reviewing copies of the Warren Report and the accompanying 26 volumes of the Hearings and Testimony. I was told that it would cost up to \$3,000 for copies of my own and even then there would be no assurances, so consequently I will be living at the University library for a while and peruse the copies there -- a challenge, but not a roadblock.

I'd like to clarify my position in regards to the Stone movie. The purpose of my project is not to defend him in any way -- rather, I want to present evidence contrary to his and Garisson's theories by juxtaposing clips with alternative and conflicting information. I'm sad that we have become a "television generation," believing things only when flashing lights jump out at us from a box plugged into the wall. It is not my plan to add to the deception of a generation so easily misled. The goal is to let people realize that there are two (and often more) sides to any argument and that there is no substitute for hard and honest research.

Thank you so much for extending the invitation to view your records under the FOIA. I am honored that you would allow me to do so. I am reviewing options for purchasing the books you have published and discussing summer plans with my family to see if traveling to Maryland is a possibility. I'm excited as well about your drawer of information

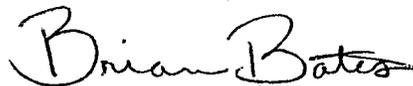
regarding Stone and his movie, and interested in what you can tell me about investigative reporting and organizing information. In recent dealings with our local newspaper, I am finding that the field of investigative reporting is disappearing; most newspapers seem to see the function of the "reporter" as just that -- to report what has been said or done, not to analyze.

To bring you up to date on my project and research thus far, I'm reading more books, the next of which will be Sylvia Meagher's. I've also found the address of Prof. Robert Blakey, who chaired the House Select Committee on Assassinations in 1978. As I'm sure you remember, he was a critic of the Warren Report. I plan to write to him, and to this area's members of Congress and the Senate to see about obtaining my own copies of the Warren Report and the 26 volumes; the 1978 Report and Testimony of the House Select Committee on Assassinations; and the five volumes of the FBI Summary Report on the Assassination released in 1966.

Thank you again for your help and time. I hope that I can enjoy a continuing correspondence with you, a true expert. If you have any concerns or advice for me, I hope that you will feel free to write me. Your comments would be well-received, and certainly well-used. My best wishes for improving health.

Sincerely,

Brian Bates
24239 Linnea Ct.
Moreno Valley, CA 92553

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Bates". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Brian Bates