

April 7, 1993

Harold Weisberg
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Dear Harold,

It is now 9 PM and I had hoped to get to this letter sooner. I want to try and get this whole thing spelled out and to you by Friday. If I run short of time you may find some documents with this letter which have no explanation. Please feel free to call me if you need some additional answers for your Friday meeting.

I guess it's always good to begin at the beginning. I began working with Harry in late 1990. I had met and spoken to him a few times prior to that, but those conversations were non specific. Harry had expressed to me the desire to write a book that "fully explored" the autopsy photographs. Despite warnings from David Lifton, which now prove to have been very accurate, I proceeded. There was never any formal arrangements between Harry and I. In 1991 he paid me a total of \$1520 and in 1992 the amount was \$4500. That tends to be misleading because most of the work I did for Harry for HT2 was done in 1991. The moneys paid to me in 1992 were , I guess you would say, back pay. Very little of that money went into my pocket as Harry was constantly instructing me to send a set of pictures to this person, then that person. I would say that less than \$1500 of that money went towards compensating me for the many hours I put in.

I was somewhat disappointed with HT2 when it finally came out. I had worked very hard to give Harry some specific material concerning the autopsy photographs. One big disappointment was that virtually nothing was said concerning Rick's interview with Robert Bouck. I had spent a great deal of time preparing Rick a set of questions that I felt could provide some important answers. Apparently they were never asked.

During the early part of 1992 as work on HT2 was wrapping up, Harry and I discussed my book, Absence Of Responsibility. This is very important. My outline for AOR was quite simple. The book would contain 3 sections. Section 1 dealt with my meeting Jim Fox and obtaining the pictures. Section 2 would be the detail of my own personal research and analysis and section

3 would be my discussion of the politics surrounding the assassination. I had told Harry that I intended to write a chapter in section 3 dealing with my interaction with certain critics. Obviously it wasn't going to be complimentary. That chapter has never been written. Gradually Harry began to form in his own mind, an illusion that *Absence Of Responsibility* was going to be solely about the critics. He wanted me to launch a broad sweeping attack on nearly everyone in the case. This illusion began to grow in Harry's mind until it was so big he stated that, "Mark, if you're not going to write this book then I will," to which I responded, "go ahead!"

I had actually decided that I was not going to finish the book. I felt very spent after all the hoopla about JFK The Movie, then HT 2, then the JAMA report. I had decided to get out the case. By that I mean I was going to do no more lectures, or research papers or books. I still had to fulfill my commitment to Seth Kerker at Emerson College in November. That was to be my swan song. I must add that my, "getting out of the case," did not mean I would refuse to speak to any serious researcher or provide them with pictures if they asked. Obviously I've made many friends. I was simply going to stop being pro-active in the research.

I had reached this decision by late May when Harry asked (demanded) that I attend his ill-fated New York press conference. I told him repeatedly that I had to be in Atlantic City that day to help a family member in conjunction with a lawsuit. That family was traveling 300 miles. A few weeks prior to this event I had appeared with Harry on a local Wilmington TV program. I had presented a 5 minute dissection of the JAMA article which had apparently impressed Harry. He demanded I come to New York and be prepared to make the same presentation.

I had not been in Manhattan for many years and quite frankly didn't know my way around. I asked Jerry Bruno, an announcer who works for me, who lived in New York for many years, to be my guide. When Jerry and I arrived at The Omni Berkshire Harry requested that Jerry, a rather stout fellow, "guard the back door and not let Robert Groden in."

Robert came to the door shortly after the conference began. Jerry knew Robert and stated to him that Harry had asked that he (Robert) not be let in. Robert then walked to the front door and stated to two employees of Carroll and Graf, "that guy (Jerry) won't let me in." The two C & G people said, "oh he can't do that, you go right in."

Robert and 2 or 3 people with him quietly came in and took up positions in the rear of the room. Although Robert was no more than 20 feet from Harry for the 90 minute fiasco, Harry never noticed him.

((Bear with me, all this minutiae will make sense shortly))

I had brought 4 sets of autopsy pictures with me and by the end of the conference they had been scattered around the room. There were also several blue folders containing the press kit provided by C & G. I gathered up my pictures and about a half dozen folders as I was leaving the room.

When we reached the hall, there was a crowd of us waiting for the elevator. There was Jerry, myself, Herman Graf, 2 C & G employees and I think Paul O'Connor also. As we were about to board the elevator one of the C & G people said to Harry, "you know..Grodin was here."

Harry turn towards me and Jerry and began to curse us violently for allowing Robert in. Towards the end I cursed back.

Jerry and I left the hotel immediately and began walking back to Penn Station to catch out train. A short distance from the hotel we encountered Robert and his entourage. Harry had just cursed out Robert in the hotel bar. As we talked there in the street, Robert handed me a Xerox of two Baltimore Police mugshots of Harry. I glanced at them then stuck them in one of the folders.

Lifton had warned me on several occasions that Harry had been arrested. According to Lifton the offense had been threatening a newspaper reporters wife.

I would not and did not speak to Harry for many weeks following that incident. When we began to communicate again I told Harry that I would afford him the same courtesy I afforded any researcher, no more and no less and that I would not work for him.

By September Harry had totally absorbed himself in this new book. It was during this period that your name was frequently mentioned. Harry wanted me to research you. He stated that you had worked for the News Journal and/or du Pont. He also stated that you were probably an agent trained in psych-ops. He also wanted me to "decode" your messages in Post Mortem. The only issue I ever offered an opinion on was Post Mortem. Harrys question was, "does Harold say that the Clark panel contradicts the Warren Report?" The question confused me because, as you stated on the phone, I think it's obvious that it does. At no time did I do any research on you as Harry requested. When you look at the reference to you in the December 8, 1992 letter it is apparent that Harry still wanted me to "decode you" , I still do not know what he meant.

In the spring of 1992 Harry had given me tapes of his April 1991 Dallas conference with the idea that I would produce a video for him. I never got

very far on it. I also still had some tapes and other materials that belonged to Harry which had been used in researching HT2. When Harry finally realized that I was serious about not working for him, he came to my house to reclaim his property. He had been on vacation for several weeks and had purchased a video printer and had it drop shipped to me. As we were gathering up all the materials and packing the printer, Harry meandered over to one of my bookshelves and spotted the 6 blue Carrol and Graf folders from the May press conference. He asked for them back and I said, "sure," not remembering that the mugshot was inside. Harry quickly found it and to say all hell broke loose is an understatement.

Around the end of October, Harry told me he'd reached the conclusion that Rick had apparently been the source of the mugshot and that he intended to confront Rick. On Halloween weekend Harry called several times and wanted desperately to come and take my wife and I out to dinner. I refused because I have 4 children. I don't mean to sound like an armchair shrink but he was apparently so lonely he sought out Rick. His meeting with Rick was not very cordial (see Harry's November 3rd letter to Rick)

On November 1 Harry called and told me that, "Rick wants to come up there and kill you but I stopped him." When I asked Harry why, he stated that it was because I had fingered Rick for taking your MDW file. I don't know what impression you had of our discussions concerning this, but everything I knew came from Harry! There are several other curious statements in that fax.

My feeling is that Harry's letter forced Rick to work for him again. The first paragraph certainly looks like black mail to me. Harry had stated to me many times (and I'll find the letters eventually) that he felt Rick was a spy, was sabotaging his work and perhaps bugging his phones and poisoning his food. I discounted these statements as attributable to Harry's paranoia.

Not long after Rick and Harry teamed up again, they went to Dallas. This is when Harry starts telling me things about Mary Ferrell and the White Citizens Council and Locke and Pernell..ect..ect. Several weeks prior to this he had instructed me to send Ferris Rookstoole a set of prints and mail them TO THE FBI OFFICE IN DALLAS, which I did. Again if you look at his December 8 letter you'll see how broad his delusions had grown. HE WAS NOW RUNNING AN FBI INVESTIGATION. He also began making statements to the effect that I was lying about Fox and the FBI wanted me to come clean and I was now a target of investigation and my only hope was to cooperate with him.

What little remained of my relationship with Harry began was all but destroyed by this and other repeated allegations. On December 27, my

birthday, he stopped by my house on his return from Connecticut. I told him in no uncertain terms I wanted nothing more to do with him.

Let me point out something. While Harry made no secret to me of the fact that you and Mary and eventually Gary Shaw, were targets of his investigation, I knew little or nothing concerning his movements or who he was with or who was working with him.

As I recall there was not a lot of communications between Harry and I in January. In February he made some calls and basically repeated the same old typical Harry stuff about busting the case and getting everybody.

In mid or late February I began to hear from researchers, some vague comments about my involvement in Harry's Dallas investigation. People were calling me for pictures to use in their books and articles. Some of these people had heard these rumors. When I confronted Harry with this information he sternly warned me to "stay out it!" I wanted nothing more than to do just that and I figured the rumors were just mistaken gossip. I also had learned from other sources that Harry apparently had a cop named Marco working for him and I deduced that perhaps people were simply confusing Mark with Marco.

Towards the end of February Dr. Robert Artwald a surgeon at Union Memorial Hospital whom I had sent a set of pictures, contacted me. he wanted some additional blow-ups for his JAMA article research and his Chicago presentation. I do not have his phone number so I would contact him via Prodigy E-Mail and he'd call me. Around the same time Harry stated that he was going to blast Artwald because , according to Harry, the doctor had allegedly released something from Harry's medical file. What really happened was Artwald made some humorous comment on the Prodigy bulletin board about Harry's blood pressure and Harry had jumped to a massive conclusion.

I have tolerated much from Harry over the last few years but I felt genuinely concerned about his rantings that he was going to ruin Artwald for this wholly imagined indiscretion. I couldn't sit by and let him possibly ruin a mans career so I told Artwald that Harry was after him. It turned out that Artwald already knew this from his own people in the hospital. I guess my honesty had some effect on Artwald because he then informed me that Mary Ferrell was seriously ill from Harry's harassments AND THAT I WAS BEING NAMED AS THE SOURCE OF HIS INFORMATION.

I phoned Mary around March 4 or 5. this was the first time I ever spoke to the woman and I tried to assure her that I was in no way connected to Harry's investigation.

Let me break the chronology here to explain something. When Harry began

making repeated trips to Dallas in the fall of 1992 he expressed to me the fear that his research might place him in danger. I did not dispute that conclusion since I really didn't know who or where or what Harry was doing...and didn't want to know. I reminded him of Danny Casolaro and advised him that if he were truly concerned about his safety he should deposit his papers and research notes with a trustworthy attorney with the provision that they be made public should he suddenly die or disappear. For some reason I cannot comprehend, and in spite of the many arguments we were having, he began sending me some of this material.

Enclosed is an anonymous report, apparently from Harry's key investigator, concerning a meeting with Mary. I have no idea who this person is but it certainly isn't me since I have never been to Dallas never met Mary or dined with her. I don't know, could this be the D.C. cop Lawrence Overbrook whom Harry refers to in his March 2 letter to Mary? I have been very reluctant to distribute this report since I know it will bring Harry's full wrath down on my head but since he's chosen to falsely label me as his source I have no choice but show otherwise. I'm sure Mary, with who I plan to share this letter, will be able to immediately figure out who Harry's spys are.

The next morning after speaking to Mary I received a call from Joe Adam's, concerning the Baltimore P.D. IA investigation. I was 100% honest and candid with Adam's and following the phone call I figured the matter was settled. Adams had admonished me not to speak to Rick or Harry concerning the investigation. Within a day, Harry's on the phone to me and as I stated to you, I felt he was fishing for information and had perhaps gotten wind of the investigation. I remained silent.

Prior to Adams call and my call to Mary, after Harry had sent me copys of his letters to Mary and Gary, I cautioned him about misrepresenting himself with references to "cops' and "concurrent jurisdiction." He stated that he knew what he was doing and I knew nothing despite 23 years as a journalist. In one particular call he begins by making references to his official police investigation and how the Baltimore Police (*not simply Rick or Marco) are 100% behind him. he then begins to lament how "people are making false charges against him," namely that he's representing himself as so pseudo-official investigator. I began to appreciate what is meant by the term , A mind numbing contradiction."

Over the weekend of March 6 & 7 I told a very good friend about what had been happening. This friend is well connected in the Dallas community and they began to tell me that Harry's allegations that I was his source on Mary

was only the tip of the iceberg. He then went on state that I was allegedly tapping peoples computers among other things.

On March 8 Harry called and he bragged about how he had Mary now. How she had faxed his March 2nd letter to the Baltimore Cops. Harry had stated something to the effect that, "we had people right there..on both ends." I feared for Mary's safety so I called her again and she stated that she'd been visited by a mysterious woman, who it turns out was reporting back to Harry. Harry also seemed to be growing increasingly aware of things back in Baltimore P.D. I tried to call Adam's but he was never in.

On Friday March 12, the day before the blizzard Harry called me and stated that I was in , "deep shit." He stated that I had called Joe Adams and started this whole thing and he also said he'd made up with Mary and she'd told him about my March 8th call. He seemd to know all the details of Adma's investigation and referred to Adams by name. I told Harry I was not going to discuss this any further and I hung up on him. I called Robert who called Mary and told me that Harry and Rick had apparently forced their way in and tried to blame me for all the bad things they had thought about her.

Harry apparently was in New York on March 16 & 17. he called me late in the evening on March 17th and admonished me to "come clean" with him because he was the only thing keeping Rick from coming up the road and killing me. On that note I terminated the conversation.

On March 18 I filed a report with the New Castle County police. I had been able to dismiss the November threat but in light of the Baltimore P.D. I.A. investigation I felt that the threat may be real. The New castle P.D. have never called me back. I do know from a subsequent conversation with Joe Adams that they talked to the head of Internal Affairs. Apparently they either talked to Harry or something leaked from I.A. because at 1 pm on Friday afternoon I received the enclosed fax. (See Letter to me 3/19/93)

I was very upset that Mary had told Harry of our March 8 conversation but she obviously had not mentioned the one the week before. I am curious about his mention in the March 24 fax (the last one I received from him) in which he makes references to Mary's phone "records." I doubt Mary would have had a phone bill showing a March 8th call. It makes me think that Harry's female operative, who according to Mary was not there when I called her, may have left a bug. I can't believe Mary gave him such a detail chronology.

My last contact with Harry was a terse call on Monday morning, I hung up on him.

There are many other small issues here, some of which we've discussed.

When Joe Adams had called me the subject of the FBI had come up and I stated that I had spoken to SA Greg Alt in December. The subject of those conversations were Harry's threats against Robert. ((For the record Robert had Alt call me)) But I was also anxious to talk to the FBI in December because even after accounting for Harry's many over statements to the effect that he was working with the Dallas FBI, I wanted to make sure that the FBI was not conducting an official investigation into the Fox pictures.

I had told Adam's about Alt and Adams eagerly requested ALts phone number which I provided. I subsequently called Alt after I began to have doubts about Adams and the IA investigation. Alt stated that Adams had never phoned him!

It's late, I'm tired, and this should answer any major question concerning this whole affair. If you have any..just call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Mark Crouch', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Crouch