

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
1/19/78

Mr. Steve Bell
ABC News
1124 Connecticut Ave., NW
Wash., D.C.

Dear Mr. Bell,

By now I believe you know that I seek no personal attention and that when I write you about ABC's coverage of so-called assassination news my criticisms are not of you personally.

By now I know that New York has showbiz interests and pays no attention to your journalistic advice. Perhaps there is nothing that can be done about this but I take a few moments between the end of today's show and my leaving for my weekly blood-testing to give you a little ammo if you need it in the future.

Today's show was much less irresponsible. However, the areas of its not being irresponsible also involve no news at all. Gleeby was rehashing the old stuff that is not at all new in this release. He talked about withholding and covering up, simultaneously unable to isolate Hoover's traditional practice of cover-the-ass notes. (I have a collection of such Hoover handwritten notes several inches thick separate from these records.)

Example, the title of my first book, dated 2/15/65, is Whitewash. The subtitle of the second book, out in print 12/2/68 is "The FBI-Secret Service Coverup." The manner and means are first indicated in the introduction to my first book, amplified in all of my subsequent books and in the most elaborate detail in the two most recent of the seven.

So, journalistically, the show aired no news in this at all. I've been after the FBI under FOIA on just this for a decade, with unreported by precedental if not historic successes, as recently as this past Monday, also unreported except for a Lardner story which could not include all the judge said about either the FBI or me.

Now that Jack Ruby was a potential criminal informant, FBI? Never secret. I wrote about it eight years ago. With the same records as the basis. They were never classified and never withheld in the Archives.

No pre-assassination files included on Oswald? Why did not these characters who live on the phoney attention they get go for that under FOIA. I have been after it for some years, as has a friend on the west coast.

GMA's "expert" does not even know the provisions of the FOIA, dear from his inability to inform the audience when it was germane.

"As much as 10,000 pages" are still withheld, he told the audience. Add more than another zero because there are many more than 100,000 pages still withheld - and I've filed for the most important ones of them under FOIA, too. Best examples: Dallas and New Orleans Field Office files. Dallas was the Office of Origin - in ostensible charge and actually in charge and in receipt of the paper generated.

I doubt that ABC's show people really care about what all of this has meant or means to the country or to responsible journalism. Important, significant and I believe commercially as well as socially useful information abounds. I don't think ABC News will want to make any use of these records. But I won a court suit to obtain them without the fees I cannot pay, they were put in a mail truck yesterday noon and I've ordered ^{several} file cabinets to hold them. You'll be welcome to free access. I expect to receive the earlier 40,000 pages soon. If I do not, I'll sue the bastards again and am certain I'll get them. They also will be available. The only restrictions on my files relate to individual rights, as to privacy, and on what I know beyond questions is irresponsible. I will not be part of any disinformation operation. Best wishes, Harold Weisberg