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Weisberg's Whitewash IV bares Ford's use of 'Top Secret' data

Author Harold Weisberg charges in a new book published Friday that President Gerald R. Ford used "Top Secret" documents to write a book in 1965 about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Weisberg's book, "Whitewash IV — JFK Assassination Transcript," was released Friday — the 11th anniversary of the slaying of Kennedy in Dallas, Tex.

Weisberg's new effort is based on a transcript of the Jan. 27, 1964 executive session of the Warren Commission on which Ford served.

Ford's book, Weisberg claims, begins with a direct quotation from the transcript of the Jan. 27 executive session — the same transcript which was denied Weisberg for ten years. The transcript was finally released to Weisberg earlier this year after he had sued the government and lost under the so-called Freedom of Information Act. (The National Archives declassified the document soon after the court ruling.)

Weisberg asks how could the transcript have been "Top Secret" since Ford used it in his book and how could Ford get away with publishing top secret information without the government taking some action? In his book Weisberg compares the transcript with the edited version in Ford's book.

The local author claims Ford "commercialized the near-sacred duty . . . to investigate the assassination," and appointed John R. Stiles who had been his campaign manager to the commission staff in order to get the taxpayers to provide him with a ghost writer for his book, "Portrait of the Assassin," Weisberg adds.

As in his other books, Weisberg claims the transcript only proves that from the beginning the Warren Commission was determined not to investigate the assassination but to attempt to authenticate an official story invented to cover up the conspiracy to kill Kennedy.

Weisberg claims all the commission members did not agree with the report but were tricked into signing it. He tells about his secret relationship with the late Sen. Richard B. Russell, also a commission member, and how another executive session transcript was faked to eliminate Russell's disagreement with the report and how Russell encouraged him to continue trying to disprove the report.

He said the transcript shows that the commission was afraid to question the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover about reports that Lee Harvey Oswald was an undercover agent for the FBI, and how

Allen Dulles, former head of the CIA, admitted that the CIA members would lie and commit perjury to protect their agents.

The commission feared the truth and what it could lead to, Weisberg claims. The panel had proof beyond question, Weisberg adds, that no one person in the entire world could have done the shooting attributed to Oswald.

As in his first whitewash book Weisberg said "We still need a new and genuine investigation entirely in public sessions open to the printed and electronic press, preferably by Congress."

The book also details the struggle Weisberg had to get the copy of the transcript. Other transcripts still have not been made public, he said.

(Congress voted this week to override Ford's vetoes of amendments to the Freedom of Information Act which are designed to allow the release of much information suppressed by the government. One of Weisberg's suits against the government was cited in Congressional testimony at hearings on the amendments.)

The book is available by mail for \$6.25 from Weisberg, Rt. 8, Frederick.



Harold Weisberg with new book

In an analysis of the legal aspects of the case, attorney Jim Lesar asks why not make the evidence public if the Warren Commission Report stated the truth about the assassination and that evidence supported its conclusions?

He said the Freedom of Information Act is actually being used to suppress rather than free evidence. The judiciary is facing its own Watergate, he warns, unless measures are taken to halt the widespread use by government lawyers of techniques intended to deceive the courts. This is far more dangerous than the partly-exposed corruption in the executive branch of government, he contends, since it can enable the establishment of an authoritarian state.