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473-8186

Route 8  
Frederick, Md. 21701

April 24, 1968

Honorable Gerald Ford  
United States Congress  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Congressman Ford:

The New Orleans States-Item of April 20 quotes you in evasions appropriate to one who signed the so-called Warren Report. It is, of course, as much a Ford report as it is a Warren Report. What is utterly lacking is an honest, forthright approach. What is entirely missing is a forthright statement by you that the report you signed is viable, honest, correct. Instead, like the boy with his cookie-filled hand behind his back, you are quoted as saying you have "seen no evidence that would change (your) belief in the findings of the Warren Commission".

May I ask, assuming you are familiar with that evidence that was available to you, if you have asked to see such evidence? I made this offer to you two years ago.

Is it indeed a question of what you have "seen" when you and only you have control over what you do and "see"? Is it not indeed as much a question of what you have refused to see?

Of course, should you be home in Grand Rapids and want to "see" the printed evidence, you could not because your hometown library suppresses even that, falsely denying they ever possessed it.

You assumed a responsibility when you accepted appointment to the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy that is not discharged by your engaging in propaganda which is precisely what you did in the Warren Report and what since then and to this day you have done in every statement I have seen attributed to you. I suggest the country has the right to expect more of you. And I further suggest your own integrity should require more of you.

There remains the possibility that you and the other members of the Commission were misinformed and underinformed. There does not remain the possibility that mature, politically wise men, experienced in the law, can today be unaware of this. Therefore, I believe it not inappropriate to suggest this is the way you prefer it and for that the responsibility is yours.

However, should you at any point want to "see" the "credible evidence that would change the recommendations or conclusions" of the Commission, my invitation stands to do it privately or, should you prefer, before any audience of your choosing.

And until you accept such a challenge, I believe the course of honor dictates silence from you on the subject; above all, a cessation of the propaganda that is so clearly averse to the national interest.

Sincerely,  
Harold Weisberg