

Richard Gallen
260 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N.Y. 10001

4/29/87

HAROLD WEISBERG
7627 OLD RECEIVER RD.
FREDERICK, MD 21701

Dear Dick,

We've not moved since 10/1/67 but we've had four correct addresses in that time and one the result of a Bowker typo. It has been at least 15 years since the correct address was Rt. 8. It began as 7, was subdivided into 7 and 8, then into 12, and then we got the street address, all without moving. There was when the postal clerks erred and were good and we got incorrectly addressed mail. Not since Reagan, tho.

From your note of the 9th some of what I sent you didn't reach you (nothing was returned to me) or you've forgotten.

You ask how much I need to do the "King conspiracy book and how good my documentation is. I remind you that you once told me I'm the most conservative man you knew, that I understated and was accurate and correct. I'll build this up a little by telling you that in all I've published I'm aware of only four very minor errors and at least two of them were accurate quotation of the FBI. If I'd erred in any of the great volume of lengthy and detailed affidavits I've filed the FBI would have had me long before this. They've shown no single error, and almost all were rough drafts, some being retyped by my wife when I was still drafting them. This is, perhaps, enough of a reminder and buildup for me to say that The King Conspiracies will be and is an author's dream. Because of my condition it is also this author's nightmare. I'll return to this but I answer your question first. No, I'd better continue because I'm tired, more so than usual and I don't want to forget.

After Frame-Up appeared (and David Outerbridge killed it almost as soon as he published it) I became James Earl Ray's investigator. I did the investigation - and I mean I also - that got him the evidentiary hearing and I did the investigating for that. Because senior counsel was vacationing abroad and junior counsel, a fine guy but he'd never appeared before a jury, ^{and I was} was left to conduct two days of discovery on enemy turf. So, that also fell pretty much to me. Together with how we went about establishing that Ray did not have effective assistance of counsel when his counsel was the fabled Percy Foreman. I decided that we had to show that Foreman failed to use the available evidence, so available that I could get it, that it was also available to him, and that it exculpated Ray. Believe it or not, this is what we did, under incredibly difficult and harsh conditions. The judge held ultimately that guilt or innocence was immaterial, that Ray knew what he was doing when he entered the plea that without question Foreman coerced him into.

I then started this book, using the results of my own investigation, some of the discovery material, some quite exciting, and doped out how the crime was actually committed and that it was not possible that Ray shot King. I mean this in the detail I'm not how going into. While I was working on the book, and what I'd drafted has been retyped but I've never read it, Congress amended the Freedom of Information Act - OVEB ME! Explicit in the debates. So, I filed for the FBI's and DJ's information and that 1975 case is still before the courts, now limited to award of fees.

Please for the moment keep all of this to yourself because there can be some danger and I'm not very nimble now.

The FBI stonewalled me and with timid counsel there was a limit to what I could do, but I persevered and in the end got some 60,000 pages I've gone over with some care. I found absolutely solid FBI confirmation of what I'd doped out in my own investigation and to at least a very large degree already on paper and there before I filed this suit. More than just confirmation, I've FBI pictures of the tricks used to frame Ray and not only the names of the witnesses who established that the crime was not committed ^{as}

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the FBI said, but what this really means, that the FBI, knowing the truth, proceeded with the frameup, along with local authorities. I've even gotten pictures the FBI tried to withhold from me showing that the pictures also proved the impossibility of its frameup. The name, ^{it} happens, of my book. The detail is rich, overwhelming and the problem I've had, largely inaccessible to me because all those records perforce are in the basement and I'm very limited in my use of stairs and can't stand before files to search them. Now when I say detail, I mean I have even the FBI laboratory's exculpatory evidence.

If this is not enough to indicate the importance and potential of the book, let me know and I'll add detail. *Think in terms of the crime, not Ray. The magnitude & wonder of the messiah*

As I thought about this I thought that perhaps the best procedure would be to do a shorter and I think also important and possibly exciting book, the latter depending on me, not the content that I have, and again it begins, not the book but the ~~xxx~~ proof, with a personal incident. It happens that some years ago I also started that book, with the working title of Agent Oswald. I do not have nearly the enormity of records for it and don't need them so, if there were any probability of having that book published commercially, I'd hope to be in the position (at least) of being able to hire an assistant to do the ^{king} searching for me. So you can understand what the King searching entails, I've about 60 file cabinets, mostly overfilled and preserved as I received them. The compulsion to preserve ^{his} historical records precisely as I received them, together with my lack of resources, is what has me in the position of not having duplicate copies in subject files, which I did establish later when I was able to get a fairly decent copier.

From time to time I've had assistants, local students, and one was a ^a treasure. The last two were disasters, the worst a preacher's daughter, and there is much misfiling that will not be a problem with these books. But the deterioration is what caused me to stop seeking another student helper. Then I did start looking again and so far no leads. I hope that when the fall semester starts my luck will be better. In part this is because I switched the archive I'm leaving from Wisconsin to local hood, they are quite excited by it and perhaps the president will come up with a bright and careful woman student. Most do not live here. It is an expensive but fine small college, voted by its peers the country's best small college, *mostly a women college.*

When I drafted a few chapters of Agent Oswald I was friends with Walter Glanze, then education editor at Bantam. He like what I sent him, showed it to their fiction editor who also liked it, and as he did with everything from the first, Mark Jaffe nixed it. Allan Bernard ^{at Bantam} went for Whitewash in 1965 and Jaffe nixed it.

I got an unexpected kind of vengeance, and I digress for this because it may amuse you, when their vice president whose name I've forgotten was sprung as a State surprise witness on publishing during the Ray evidentiary hearing. I've got the transcripts and could get the name. He began to testify before the lunch break and I passed a note to chief counsel telling him to follow me at the break and I'd prepare him. There wasn't time to go back to our motel, so I took him up to the US Marshal's cell in which they had Ray for me at every break and I told Jimmy to get lost and I did enough to ruin that Judenrat fink.

I'd always suspected that Oswald had some kind of official connection before he went to the USSR and I knew that the supposedly complete military records were not. All I could honestly do in Whitewash, the first book, is say that Oswald's career in New Orleans is consistent only with what in intelligence is called establishing a cover. During the Garrison era, when I was not associated with his work of view and looked into Oswald only, as best I could when I was broke, I did what checking I could on Oswald in New Orleans, after the book of that title was out.

Mid-January 1966 I was in the San Francisco area promoting Whitewash II and I turned on a guy who'd kept his mouth closed. He'd been in the Marines with Oswald,

had been shunned by all official investigators, and he told me off the air of an entirely different person, the Oswald he knew, a man who had a very high security clearance, one I'd never heard of, Crypto. He said Oswald was one of only five men in his outfit who had that clearance. That and other things he said I was able to check out.

Now, how did I establish that the only official candidate for Presidential assassin has this exceptional security clearance when the official records do not show it? The FBI reported no security clearance, the Marines official witness on Oswald's service record said he had to have confidential, and my FOIA request of the Navy got nothing? By the way, when it was reported that Oswald had "defected" the Navy cabled the embassy that there was no record of Oswald having any security clearance but he might have confidential clearance.

A couple of the nuttier Marines led the Commission to believe that Oswald had killed a fellow Marine, Martin Schrand, of New York. So, making no mention of JFK or the Commission or Oswald, I filed a simple request for the court-martial inquiry, required to be made, of Schrand's death. I got the proof in it, twice or three times repeated, together with the fact that it all happened at a CIA base in the Philippines. It turns out that Oswald never had any active duty assignment in the Marines that was not connected with the CIA.

Despite the CIA's strong opposition, I got some of the records relating to Oswald in the USSR and it turns out that the KGB suspected he was an American sleeper agent or an agent in place and kept him under surveillance. A KGB defector who told the FBI that was almost assassinated by the CIA, (and those records are available, even the handwritten deliberations, drive him nuts, drop him in the ocean, etc.) When the CIA learned this from the FBI it's treatment of the most valuable defector they'd ever had changed abruptly from princely. An incredible three-years of terrible, terrible abuse. Much more going with all of this. Even Warren Commission illegally classified and withheld TOP SECRET transcripts in which they discussed some of this, with language no writer could improve upon. I've published them in facsimile, most of them, and nobody remembers that or the content, which will underscore as nobody could make up. Even to the agreed-to destruction suggested by the former head of CIA, Allen Dulles. (They overlocked the stenotypist's tape and that was later transcribed for me! Under FOIA.)

Here I'm forcibly reminded of one of my ~~problems~~ problems of which I was first warned by your wonderful internist Robert Segal: I get wrapped up in what I'm doing and forget to take his instructions and walk around a bit every 20 minutes or so. Circulation impaired if I don't.

Until I reread this I've no idea of whether or not I'm succeeding in indicating what can be both interesting and important, a nonfiction work, documented enough, much more than enough, with facsimiles of withheld official records, that reads like fiction and addresses one of the most important events in history, certainly the most importance since World War II, the assassination of a President who'd started detente. And I can also include totally exculpatory evidence showing the official solution was another frameup, not so much of the dead accused but of the event and history and the changes as a result of that assassination. There will be a prima facie case that Oswald served some US intelligence interest. And of the CIA's lying about it and its stonewalling and record disappearances. It intruded into the official investigation, successfully, with Gerald Ford, our only unelected President, finking for it in secret as well as finking for the FBI, also in secret. And then and I mean this literally ~~per~~ perjuring himself about it to become vice president and thus President.

I wish we could sit and talk and tape that in the event I don't get to finish this.

Now back to King: remember that there is a live accused. I believe, as best a nonlawyer's opinion can be taken, that I have more than enough to qualify as "new

evidence," the only way he can now get a trial. If he is tried he is, inevitably, acquitted, believe me, absent the kind of corruption that alone would make that impossible.

Do I have to tell you what a publisher can do with so definitive a book? And what it would mean if after publication he were to provide a good criminal defense lawyer to represent Ray, which I think is not impossible on Ray's end. (I still hear from him and I've an affidavit to read that he asked of me for something he's filed.)

With a publisher I see some problems that to me would not be real, and I base this on my own experience. They all have editors who want to cross all ts and dot all is and in the course of it overlook what is more important. One of the importances to me is speed and minimal editorial chickenshit. There is a clear record that editing is of no consequence in this field. What I self-published is in each and every instance the rough draft my wife retyped and without any editing. Considering that I'm in impaired health and 74 the book public will have no problem with the kind of thing I'd turn out but perhaps some of the so-called critics would.

However, I'm not able to travel to promote and be on TV. I can do Radio by phone from home and I'd not be a bit surprised if the books come out well if in this day of satellites on trucks TV might come here. *I'm done through to DC R. Batten re.*

If I can avoid it I don't now want to self publish and for reasons having to do only with my physical capabilities. Getting the books down to the cellar, rearranging it to make room for them, bringing them up to fill orders. (I would want any remainders for sale and for the archive to provide after my time.)

I also can't work as I sued to. I leave for physical therapy at 6:30 a.m. and I'm home by 10:30. Big hunk out of every day and then I'm supposed to do more at home.

There is a part of Agent Oswald that I might not use part of which may amuse you and I'll and now perhaps those I remember as very promising and attractive boys who are now men. I'll omit all that relates to Oswald now just for the little thing that might be amusing. I located a 20-year old girl in New Orleans who claimed to have ~~gone~~ been to a Cuban (pre-Bay of Pigs) training camp with Oswald and others, one of whom was a Warren Commission witness, her age, Philip Geraci III. (I have his and his parents on tape. Not clandestine and him and mother in the presence of the family lawyer, in her home.) So, how is a man then your present age going to turn on a strange chick who might be on drugs and was a narcfink. (She ~~was~~ ~~was~~ me checking that out at the office of the chief of narcotics.) Well, I did turn her on when she was chaperoned by her boyfriend and in the home of a friend, and it was the week after King was assassinated. She got mad over something I now don't recall and left in a huff, on her Honda 90. About 2 a.m. So, I went back to the motel and decided to take a nap before I tried to pick the peices up. About 4:30 a.m. My phone rang and it was this girl, Dione Turner. (She called herself Day-ann, after the Israeli general, and believe it or not, she wrote biblical hebrew, as the local rabbi told me when I took some of it to him to translate.) Get decent, she said, I'm coming over, and by the time I'd showered, shaved and dressed I heard her motorbike in the courtyard of the Fontainebleu in New Orleans. She resumed the interviewing, I ran out of tapes and I started to type notes. She came overm sat on my right leg and read what I typed as I typed it, and then came out with this line, "Hal, how can you be 53 and not have a gray hair?" (I still don't, on the head.)

Quite a story about Geraci III, and my problem is that he was gay and had been directed into a gangbang when he ran away from home by a major Warren Commission witness. This is on tape, with his mother and lawyer present. He also was kidnapped by, if you remember Oswald in New Orleans, a high school classmate of Oswald's, Frederick O'Sullivan, at the time of the kidnapping a New Orleans vice squad detective and, as I ultimately was able to establish with withheld FBI records, the man who

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got Oswald to join the Civil Air Patrol where, again if you remember the book you published, David Berrie, also gay and sick gay, was a leader. The other kidnapper was a juvenile detective who'd handled Philip's case when he ran away from home. They kidnapped him, meaning took him out of Garrison's jurisdiction, as soon as they knew Berrie was dead.

This is getting to be too long. If you want an explanation of what I said not to mention anything about this to - another problem, suddenly I forget names although I do recall them later - the agent you referred me to when I was working on a Watergate book. Harold Ober agency. Yes, Peter Shepherd. When I wrote you about him I meant only him and that agency but after a bit of thought for the present only you and I'll until I've thought about this more and hear from you.

Aside from the fact that what I'm talking about can hurt people who have long records of inflicting their own hurts, a man who could be and I think is the son of the Harold Ober who started that agency was CIA, was interested in me when he was CIA and had my appearances monitored, and was forced out of CIA (into another spookery, with his staff) as a result of his illegal domestic activities. I've even got copies of bills to them at a cover address and their checks in payment, no indication of CIA on the checks or invoices. Plus some transcripts of conversations about me. I could but avoid saying anything about your friend.

I'll read and correct this tomorrow. One last thought: can you see the possibilities ~~of even~~ in the form of a spoof of spy novels of a plot centered around an aging man seducing a young woman, little more than a girl, who is herself a spook? I've some incredible gingo from that chick, some even from jails, in a file to which I gave a code name, a complete file drawer, and countless tapes quite a few of which my wife transcribed. Another story that may amuse you and Jill; once when she knew I was returning to New Orleans she took her boyfriend along and stole a half-gallon of good Scotch for me. Literally. And he was with her when she delivered it. With her leg in a cast yet. Nobody could make up a character like Dione and few could invent her way of speaking and her words and without question she was at least a police informer who became my informer and she sure knew things about me and my travels that do indicate an intelligence connection as the only way she could have know.

She also was a pretty good artist. We still have some Xmas tree ornaments she made for us. However, as of my last knowledge, she was alive and living in Houston, where she also had been in jail for some time. Correspondence with her at the jail.

Some of the actualities are so wild they'd be hard to credit in a novel. Like ~~was~~ my joint interview of her and the mother of a man she did know, a man who'd been allowed to escape from an insane asylum to assassinate Garrison. (The mother, Marge Kirkpatrick, gave me my best accommodations ever in New Orleans, an air conditioned former slave quarters.) Marge did not know Dione yet Dione described Marge's changes in furniture location accurately and described police and FBI boarders Marge took in, having a large three-storey house besides this slave quarters, which she had free.

I look back and suppose that at times I did live novels!

Best to you all,

David

4/30. I hope this is not too confused and confusing and I'm sorry I inserted the things I thought might amuse you because they break it up and complicate it.

I believe the content of both books is absolutely solid, with more than enough documentation - ever so much more than can be used for the King book - and all that is significant entirely new. Historically both are important books and with a little luck can be very significant Books. In each case my major interest is not in the accused but in the consequences of the crimes and I am aware that each will make out a case of serious felonies by the government without saying so.

Because they deal with official dishonesties of such a great magnitude I believe that in the context of the world in which we live these also are important books.

This is really Orwellian stuff and it is all real and the documentation virtually all official and kept secret.

I'm sorry I can't get up there because I believe that if we could discuss this and you could ask questions what I see would be quite visible to you and I think a little exciting, too.

Because I'm not Merlin I can't see the future, but in the probably remote event that something out of the ordinary eventuates, I add that in one JFK FOIA case I filed in 1976 I'm now pro se, I've reduced the issues to be litigated to my undenied allegations that the government perpetrated perjury, fraud and misrepresentation to get (the first) money judgement against a plaintiff (me) in a FOIA case, my documentation is overwhelming, irrefutable, and the appeals court is still sitting on the briefing five months after oral arguments were scheduled.

I'm not afraid of them and if I do not prevail I'll still not pay and they'll have to wop out or come out to Maryland for a trial or put me in jail, as they can arrange with their Reaganized courts of almost Nazi finks. Or, I do prevail, and there are the undenied crimes by the government - most of all, of all fortuituous circumstances, ^{by} the FBI special agent/ supervisor who is in charge of disclosing and withholding records from me in both King and JFK cases.

My briefing is legally sound, according to an old friend who is a retired lawyer. He says that if the courts were not crooked I'd win easily. I think the government made the classic lawyer mistake of one step too far. On appeal, when they could not address my brief, they moved for summary affirmance. This got the whole thing out of the greased channels and whatever the court's counsel decides and recommends, his future and reputation are at stake. I think this accounts for the extraordinary delay and long silence. The DJ hasn't even filed a reply.

RICHARD GALLEN & COMPANY, INC.
260 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10001
(212) 889-9624

April 9, 1987

Dear Harold,

How much would you need to do the
King Conspiracy Book? One I know the
amount I can see if there is interest.

What would the major thesis of the book be
and how good is your documentation?

Hope you and your wife are well.

Happy Birthday.

Best,

Dick

P.S. You love me by 20 years. I was 54
in March. You is 27, Dad 25