

4/21/79

Dear Bryson,

As the result of one FOIA lawsuit after you were here I've gotten well over 100,000 pages of formerly secret FBI records.

I go over them with some regularity and make separate copies for subject filing. The records as I receive them stay that way for the university archive in which they will all end.

Last night I came across some new ones on Hall.

Who I regard as an ingrate and whose conduct was unprincipled.

I have no personal interest in the pictures he stole after I trusted both of you not to. I never had any intention of publishing them or using them in any way. He has become part of history in his own way, my writing on that is past so far as I can anticipate, and my interest is in preserving an historical record.

If he wants any of the stuff I find a precondition is the return of what he stole.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

10/4/77

Dear Bryson,

Yesterday I received a call from a friend who is acting as a consultant to a foreign TV network (English language) with the request that I use my good offices to arrange for them to interview Skip. I said I would not disclose how he could be reached or where he is but upon getting some assurances of the manner in which he would be treated would relay the request.

Today the producer phoned me. I told him I could make no guarantees but would not forward a request without the guarantee that there would be ground rules to which Hall's lawyer would have to agree, which really means specify. While I believe there is probably little you would want to preclude one thing would be that they would not go into areas to which Hall, under your guidance, would have to be refusing to respond. It is a very simple matter for interviewers to make the interviewee look very bad.

Skip might welcome the challenge of a Mike Wallace type thing but it could ruin him forever - and I think CBS might well enjoy it.

These people are deep into a show for which they have already done much research. They are going to do it whether or not they have Skip on film. If they do not have him he may not look very good and may look very bad as a result of others they will have, like Hemming. I know there has been that contact. This is only one of the reasons I suggest you give this serious thought and let me know. If my belief means anything to you my belief is that Hall should do it. Among the side considerations is that these people have a tape of the foolish things Hall said to Weberman, who taped it. Entirely confidentially I also have that tape and Skip should have listened to his wife and said nothing. What he did say can hurt him much. Weberman can be interviewed and he can repeat exactly what Skip then said. Among the positive reasons is that he can help himself if he can be more like he was with Lardner, with a little less profanity, rather than as with Weberman.

Although this is foreign there will be some domestic backlash at least. This can help you when it becomes clear that the reason there was no testimony in June is because there was prejudice and there was no protection. On this I could lead them to see that Skip then was quite willing to respond under the proper conditions and that the very day he spoke very openly with a reporter who assured confidence and has preserved it.

We can discuss this more if you'd like. You may want to ask Art's opinion. ^{He} knows the medium and is an experienced reporter. I'd be willing to be present and to assist as well as caution whatever you decide, there is the actuality that as an alternative they can always use prior printed interviews.

They are interested in the Mafia and the JFK assassination and Cuban angles. They are interested in Ruby in the mob sense. They have a source other than the nut Hudson was says that Ruby visited Santos in the quonsethut. And they will be shooting the middle of this month or later. I'll hear from them probably about or just before the 15th. I do not believe the Hudson story and have told them this. Their consultant has spent much of the past two years interviewing various mafia figures, including some not spearcarriers. If you decide to do this I suggest you ask Art for what he thinks may be asked and what you should want aired in addition to what you both think. By now you know what you can expect of me by way of getting the truth told and heard.

I think your client can stand some good public relations, whether it is aired before of after the committee hears him. If you want I can make suggestions. One I would urge is an informal environment such as we had with Lardner and dependence upon adherence to the ground rules if there is deviation. Under these conditions Skip can project himself pretty well and still be projected against such things as his natural language.

And I would still like my pictures returned. Sincerely, Harold Weisberg

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
9/9/77

Mr. Bryson E. Mills
Mills, Baehr & Wessling
920 Century Plaza Bldg.
Wichita, Kansas 67202

Dear Bryson,

Some of what I loaned you was with your 9/7. You did not return any of the pictures. Would you please locate and return them?

You say that these were out of your possession for a while. If this was to Skip please do not accept his denial. I do want those pictures, only copies here. I have no objection to his copying them but I do want them back.

Your note says the 9/14 hearing has been continued. That is probably good but other explanations are possible. One is the confab they are having this weekend. I declined to be there despite their twice asking me. They have invited about a dozen of those called "critics" of the Warren Report for some brainstorming. Who knows what can emerge from that?

Please believe me these people are desperate for something they can palm off as an accomplishment. All that money and less than nothing to show for it - only bad stuff.

If you and of Skip would like me to arrange something like the off-the-record deal with George Lardner of the Washington Post let me know. Assuming the committee does not cancel the hearing out entirely. I think it is possible with the New York Times and with some TV people.

I've gone over the list of names. Good idea but quite incomplete if you think you'll have to know about them. If there is a hearing I'd advise against assuming forthrightness from the committee and I'd advise in favor of real preparation. Two examples: Hall does not have Pena, or you forgot it. But he went to see Pena, Orestes that is, in New Orleans. Orestes was my friend. He told me. He also has flipped out and is saying weirdo things and believes them. You do have Alba. If this is the Alba of the New Orleans garage then it is from one of his magazines that Oswald tore the form with which he ordered the rifle according to the official story. See the possible complications? Or with the omission of Euston and his then side-kick, the story went into while we were drinking with Lardner? Conky is also a friend and I know what he can have told the committee. This list also includes no preparation on the Pauley story. So what I'm getting at is that if there is to be a hearing you have much homework yet to do.

Whatever your personal experiences with them I think you'll err not to assume that these committee types are both desperate and madly chasing all the nut theories. More than enough comes back to me for me to be certain. If you want to prepare by knowing what you should know I'll do what I can to help you. Getting to and from Washington is a little more difficult for me now, though. Some tests have been made but not a full diagnosis.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Jose Norman
Tirso Del Junco
John Rousselot
Bill Voit
Dick Hathcock
Roy Payne
Harry Dean
Clint Wheat
Eugene Bradley
Colonel Gale
Robert De Pugh
Troy Houghton
William R. Lyons
Mildred & Joe Hyatt or Hiatt
Global Oil Co. (Long Beach)
Engineer - Huntington Beach JPL
Salvage Yard Owner - Across Street
Medical Student - UCLA
Old man with kids - next to salvage yard
Bill Watley
Jerry Patrick Hemming
Lester Logue
Patterson - Logue's partner
Truck Co. owner & his partner
Texas Optical (or Instrument)
Robert Morris
General Walker
"Boots" Welch
M. S. Schultz
Nico Crespi
Cuban-run Washeteria in New Orleans
C.I.A. man (Patrick connection - New Orleans)
Bill Seymour
Larry Howard
Steve Wilson
Ed Collins
Ronald Ponce De Leon
Cookas Arce
Roy Hargraves
Joe Garmon
Frank Fiorini (Sturgis)
Rolando Martino
Bill Robertson
Manuel Aguilar
Pepe San Marino
Ochoa
Horge Hernandez
Enrique Molina
Emittario Zorilla
Prio Socoras
Alleman (Hotel on beach)
Pedro Perez
Bayou
Luis Castillo

Luis Cantino
Magluire (Ex-General/Haiti)
Roberson (Ex-Pres./Haiti)
Santa Domingan (Washington, D.C.)
Two Santa Domingan brothers
(Warehouse - Miami)
Senator Keating
Joe McConkey
Tom Duncan
Dick Billings
Miguel Acocca
John Martino
Sam Giancano
John Roselli
Santo Trafficante
Howard Davis
Carlos Marcello
Marcello's daughter fr/Miami
Hostey - F.B.I. Dallas
R. K. Brown
Rolando Masferrer
Wally Yates
Reuben Miro
Miro Cardona
Chester Farfan
Alba
Robert Hudson
(Girl who worked with Bob)

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JAMES R. ROTH
OF COUNSEL

September 7, 1977

Harol Weisberg, Publisher
Route 12, Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Harold:

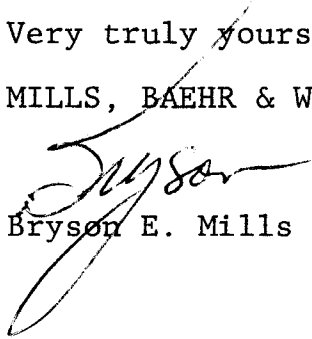
I apologize for being so delinquent in returning the enclosed material to you.

My copies were out of my possession for a time and I really didn't want to go to the expense of making an additional set of copies unless necessary. I hope that it has not been inconvenient for you. In addition to the documents you loaned me, I am sending you a list of names and identifying information that I have compiled from talking to Skip. This list reflects persons that Skip either has had contact with previously or gained information on relative to his experiences with which you are familiar.

As far as I know, we are still scheduled to appear on September 14, but that could be changed between now and then. I will advise you if there is any change.

Very truly yours,

MILLS, BAEHR & WESSLING


Bryson E. Mills

BEM/dz
Enc.

P.S.

*Have just learned that the 9-14-77
hearing has been continued.*