

8/29/67

Dear Mr. McNeil,

amount How refreshing and comforting it is to get a simple, honest, straightforward ~~recollection~~ *amount* of your best recollection instead of ~~the~~ confabulation, fake heroics or uninhibited ~~remembrance~~ *amount*! I do thank you for your letter of August 19, which just arrived this morning.

I have been forced to be my own publisher, so I have some control over who gets press copies. I'll put you on the list for that book (MANCHESTER MACHIAVELLI: THE UNINTENDED UNOFFICIAL WHITEWASH), and I give BBC copies of the first off the bindery anyway. On this subject, you can get any of my work, including the as-yet unpublished OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS, from my agent, Gordon Harbord, 53 St. Martin's Lane, London W.C. 2. The New Orleans book will soon be out here in pocket size. I am co-publisher with Barrellax. We have reached a verbal agreement for English publication, the details of which are now being worked out. I tell you this because you are now with Panorama. I think you will find, as Panorama apparently earlier did from the Times of London that New Orleans investigation flows from my work. Your John Grist, according to a cable I received, was to look me up. He didn't. Should Panorama get interested, I have more than 300 pages of once-secret and largely once-suppressed documents on this. I'll be speaking to Gerry Priestland on his return. He has a personal interest that BBC may or may not follow. I ~~also~~ *also* have that fascinating tape recording of Dean Andrews that I supplied Garrison for his Andrews perjury trial that ended in his conviction.

I intend no use of your letter that will not meet with your approval. I did not for one moment believe what Manchester wrote, for I have checked his stuff on the assassination out, have a third of the book and most of that part written, and he has achieved an incredible upsetting of the odds by being close to 100% wrong by the Commission's own evidence. I intend to finish the book on which I am now working before I return to that, but offhand, what I'd like to do is use your letter, possibly contracted, possibly as is.

There is not much doubt in my own mind that there was the incident Oswald reported to the police and that it probably did not involve you, for there is another reporter who Manchester really had to try hard to miss, who was crew-cutted. I have material on this I also intend to use. He is Pierce Allman, now not reporting but still in Dallas.

If you are interested, Harbord can supply you with a copy of PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH: SUPPRESSED KENNEDY ASSASSINATION PICTURES. I have fairly completely established that Oswald was not in the sixth-floor window (that nobody was) and that he was on the first floor (See under Carolyn Arnold).

If you think your recollection can be refreshed (and from your letter I am satisfied you will not imagine what you do not recall), it might be interesting if you study the pictures on the inside back cover of WHITEWASH II: THE FBI-SECRET SERVICE COVERUP. While I doubt if the face could stir recollections, that is an unusual shirt. Lovelady, by the way, was not wearing the shirt the FBI said he was.

Your recollection of the Negro boys is correct. He is Amos Lee Ruins.

Do you recall any of the other reporters who ran up the grassy knoll with you? Do you recall if Bob Jackson was there?

I'd appreciate it if you read your letter again to see if it will satisfy you if I use your words, with attribution. I really want only the truth as closely as man can get it, despite the accounts you may read in the press. I believe your letter has it. I know Manchester is psychologically incapable of it. It was possible to predict in advance (as I did, including to a number of British editors going back to 1965) that his book would be the scandal it is. The full magnitude of the scandal that would have been had the Kennedys not filed suit is not generally recognized.

At this distance it is not possible to know BBC interest and attitude, so I'll tell you in order that someone over there will know in the event this thing breaks open, as it can, that in addition to what I have already published, about a half million words, and the coming New Orleans book, within two months and quite likely less I will have completed and published the fifth and as yet untitled book. That will contain a considerable amount more on the autopsy, medical evidence and "single bullet theory", the only real additions in any books to what I initially published in chapters 12,13 and epilogue of WHITEWASH and Part II of WHITEWASH II. It will also have the documentation behind WHITEWASH II and a few other things that on another other subject could be guaranteed to have page-1, above-the-fold attention awaiting it. Should BBC get interested, Gerry knows he has access to all my unpublished material because I trust him. Almost all of it is now made up for the appendix and is readily available. The same is true for Charles Wheeler, also BEC_DC.

Again I thank you for your careful statement of unadorned recollection and the time you took to record it, If I can be of any service to BBC on this end, it need only ask.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Shirley, This and the enclosed copy of his letter are for your information, not for publication by others, for I want to use it in IMech., probably all that is relevant, unedited.