

Mr. William P. Farley, assistant general counsel
McGraw-Hill, Inc.
1221 Avenue of the Americas
New York, N.Y. 10020

7/10/89

Dear Mr. Farley,

If as you say in your letter of the 5th, you "have reviewed the correspondence on this matter again and honestly do not know what additional actions" I "am requesting" you "to take, "I do not have to review that correspondence again to have questions about your intent and your use of "honestly."

If what is not true from what Davis originally wrote, to quote your letter, he "was referring to the documents which had been made public as a result of your efforts," then it is not necessary to persist in the remnant of his original fabrication to which you cling, "(f)rom correspondence between Wasserman and Weisberg that I have examined."

All you need do, if you persist in determination to republish a gross and deliberate lie that defamed me as published and inverts that defamation in what you now propose, is eliminate any reference to me. Just say he examined FBI records disclosed as a result of an FOIA case.

You are, obviously, aware of the fact that as now proposed he implies that he publishes what comes from my personal records when you continue what I quote from your letter in the second paragraph with "not necessarily to those in your personal files."

Moreover, you cannot eliminate all the copies of his really rotten fabrication that have already been distributed.

Even his formulation, "from the correspondence I have examined" suggests that it was some kind of deep mafia secret he had uncovered.

~~That~~ You all are well aware of this utter and intended dishonesty in this. I remind you again that I have had no response to my request for the return of at least copies of that correspondence which disappeared when Amy Stevens was working here for Davis. What, consistent with good faith and honesty of purpose, explains this refusal to return my own personal records to me? This, is course, is a rhetorical question because that correspondence proves that Davis fabricated this lie, this defamation of me, to make his phony book seem to have some credibility. The fact remains that Marcello was not in touch with me and that I initiated the slight correspondence with Wasserman, not the other way around, and it does not justify Davis's persisting lie, that "throughout the summer and fall of 1979 Jack Wasserman made use (your new formulation) of of the FBI files that had been released to the public (which is not true) as a result of Harold Weisberg's Freedom of Information Act requests." The last word also is not true, as Davis also knows very well. It was the result of lengthy, difficult and costly litigation, ~~not yet ended~~.

The truth is that Davis made this up to appear to support his fabrications earlier on the same page, a copy of which I enclose so you won't have to search again. And then there is what I'm not troubling to get and copy and enclose, that follows as it begins on this page, "(b)ecause of this frantic (nice substitute for nonexistent) response of Marcello's principal attorney...." (Which Wasserman never was. He was only the immigration expert and respected one Davis defames safely because he is dead.)

The plain and simple truth is that Wasserman was never here, never sent anyone here, we never, ever met and what slight contact we had was on my initiative, for my own purposes, and there is nothing at all within my knowledge to justify any of what Davis simply made up here because with Wasserman dead and Marcello not likely to sue he could use his fabrications for his own end, which include commercializing a great national tragedy.

look at some of this awful and dishonest writing, "There is solid evidence" that

Marcello was so "disturbed" that "he" assigned the matter (of foraging through my personal files) to his most trusted attorney... (who) immediately set about obtaining the available FBI files on the Kennedy assassination." He never did and this in context *it* means from me. Obviously, if Marcello had wanted those files all he had to do was send the FBI a check and he would have gotten them. But he didn't. And he didn't send here. And Wasserman was never here. And he didn't ask for those files, either.

I could have asked for an apology and retraction. I didn't. I just asked that you eliminate all *fo* this deliberate fabrication that even suggests me in any way. If you want to continue to publish other lies, that is your business and NAL's. But as it relates to me, I want no even remote suggestion that I was in any way involved in Davis's knowing fabrication. There just is no truth to any part of it.

Is it not indecent enough that in all the copies already distributed you have so *am*ignantly defamed me? Why do you have to persist in trying to get my approval for a rephrasing of it? That will lend credibility to the defamatory copies already in circulation.

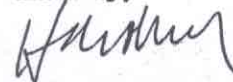
The only way in which you can mitigate the damage you have already - and permanently - done me is to do what I have asked, *i* think not incomprehensibly, from the beginning, take all of this that refers to me at all out entirely. I mean do not leave any suggestion of it.

I'm 76, not well, today is not one of my better days, and I resent very much *so* being put to all this trouble and aggravation still again - just because you want to see a lousy property fabricated by a dishonest commercializer - who paid me back for all the time he took and all the access he had by making up this lousy defamation. I think it is indecent of you to continue to take this time and insult my intelligence as you do once again in this letter.

And will you please see to it that the copies of my own correspondence I want to have in my files for the future are retruned, so that all that is available to others is *not* this rotten and deliberate lie of Davis?

I leave it to you to distribute copies within McGraw-Hill.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg

LEGAL

nearly eight years after the House Select Committee on Assassinations issued its finding of probable conspiracy and voiced its suspicions of the possible involvement in the crime of Jimmy Hoffa, Santos Trafficante, and Carlos Marcello, one cannot help but conclude that the United States government either does not want to know who was behind the assassination of the President or, at best, does not want the nation and the world to know who was behind the crime.

It was one thing to tell the world that an unbalanced loner killed the President and was then quickly executed for his crime by a patriotic citizen taking the law into his own hands, and quite another to admit that one of the most powerful crime families in the nation had been able to change the course of American history by violent means and get away with it.

What was Carlos Marcello's reaction to the House Select Committee on Assassinations' publicly declared suspicion that he or his "crime family or organization" might have played a role in the assassination of President Kennedy?

There is solid evidence that he was quite disturbed, for in the summer of 1979, when those findings were finally published by the government printing office, he apparently assigned the matter to his most trusted attorney, the brilliant Jack Wasserman, for investigation. Wasserman immediately set about obtaining the available FBI files on the Kennedy assassination, which included the extensive files on David Ferrie and some documents, but not all, on the allegations of Eugene De Laparra and SV T-1, as well as the Edward Becker story of Marcello's threat to kill Kennedy.

These files, amounting to well over 220,000 pages of documents, had been obtained through a lengthy and costly Freedom of Information Act lawsuit brought against the Justice Department by Harold Weisberg, noted Kennedy assassination researcher and author of several books relating to the assassination. They were the files the Assassinations Committee should have had at the beginning of its investigation but did not receive until too late. Now they were being put at the disposal of Carlos Marcello's attorney.

From correspondence between Wasserman and Weisberg that I have examined, it appears that throughout the summer and fall of 1979 Jack Wasserman ~~foraged in Weisberg's files~~ in an attempt to retrieve every FBI document that could relate to the possibility of his client's having been involved in the assassination.

Because of this frantic response of Marcello's principal attorney

made use of the FBI files that had been released to the public as a result of Harold Weisberg's Freedom of Information Act requests.

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William P. Farley
Assistant General Counsel

July 5, 1989

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, MD 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

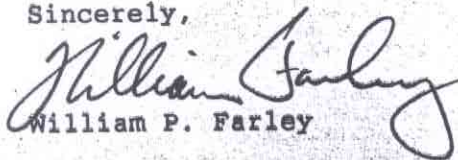
I have received your letter dated June 23, 1989 regarding Mafia Kingfish.

As indicated in previous correspondence from Mr. Davis and myself, Mr. Davis has agreed to change the reference to the use of your files which appeared on page 414 of Mafia Kingfish to make it clear that he was referring to the documents which had been made public as a result of your efforts and not necessarily to those in your personal files. In addition, Mr. Davis has agreed to eliminate your name entirely from the Acknowledgments section of the book.

Because I believed that these two modifications resolved the matters about which you complained, I was surprised to have received your letter of June 23, 1989. I have reviewed your correspondence on this matter again and I honestly do not know what additional actions you are requesting us to take.

By the way, I did not respond to your initial letter promptly because the letter was addressed to Mr. Davis and he had agreed to respond to you. I responded to you after I learned that you had contacted McGraw-Hill somehow requesting that we also respond. I certainly did not intend to ignore your correspondence.

Sincerely,


William P. Farley

WPF/sd

cc: John H. Davis