Route 8
Frederick, Md. 21701

May 29, 1975

Mr. Jann Wenner
Rolling Stone
625 Third St.
San Francisco, Calif. 94107

Dear Mr. Wenner:

More than eleven years of experience with many editors and publications has taught me that none really want solid pieces in the areas of the work I do, all have a special kind of machismo that is offended when they find they don't and can't live up to their expectations in it, and most are they resentful when they learn their judgments were wrong. If it turns out that I was right in what I said, I am disliked more for it.

The record now shows that the caution I gave you as soon as I heard you'd assigned that piece on the Warren Commission "critics" to Bob Kaiser was in fact an accurate prediction. I think he would now agree if you'd care to send him a copy of the letter.

The one thing of substance you had after all that effort is what I offered you and you rejected, as ancillary rights and as a book for Straight Arrow to distribute. And you didn't even handle that honestly.

(I have forced out another transcript that AP did not cover fully. What they omitted would make an Orwellian piece.)

I have been told of your bitter-ending and how you almost didn't even include the shameful footnote.

Even Groden's piece, where it is not insane and is in contact with reality, is no more than a cribbing of what I published earlier - another ripoff. He did his work originally for me, checked every bit of it as he did it with me, including the last bit about the man on the knoll, and learned the fact from me. Even the man on the knoll is in my early published work and in substantial form, the one such report that withstood the effort to destroy it all. It was confirmed by Itek for Life and I have Itek's report.

While I feel like the raped woman who, on the witness stand, finds herself accused as an attractive nuisance, I nonetheless feel we both have obligations. For representative society to work, people need information in the fields in which I work as well as what, in its best form, is no more than entertainment.

Here we have a new whitewash by a new Commission and no single publication in the entire country has done a single substantial piece on it. Yet for any half-competent investigative reporter, it was a cinch.

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Its report will be out before you can do anything with it.

I do not expect any real expose of it. We lack that kind of press today, alas.

Nor do I know if there will be any interest in the kind of piece that came to mind while I was doing other work that reminded me of Belin. But having been reminded, I dashed off the beginning of what I project as a long article or what this decade's history has usually required that I keep in mind, a record for the future.

If it interests you, let me know. I'll do a longer piece and you can cut it. My material is rich. It will also be a substantial JFK assassination piece. This subject is again hot. (So hot that even conservatives in the Congress are in touch with me on it. They and others not conservative are terrified over the potential of all the crazy allegations by the self-seekers, self-promoters and just plain paranoids.)

JFK assassination articles do not have to be by nuts or nutty to be interesting.

I did not file the suit for that transcript or keep after and bring out others on whim. It was for a partly-written book tentatively titled Agent Oswald. There can be several articles that do not jeopardize the book, with documents full of classification stamps for illumination. Even the sainted Hoover's letters. I'd be just as happy, probably happier, if your own people did them because I have other work to do, work that will not be done unless I do it. Your Washington representative can examine these things for you and if you want them and I'm satisfied with your offer, you can do them yourself. With the CIA and the FBI certain to stay in the news, these aspects will be newsworthy.

Despite your and Kaiser's crap, it remains a fact that I have been fighting close to a lone fight and with reasonable success. Except for Jim Lesar and some help from Paul Hoch, it has been a lone fight. If you read WHITEWASH IV with care, you should realize that I ran a not inconsiderable risk. I am doing it again, with another direct challenge to the government that can charge me with perjury.

This time there may be a different reaction because there have been changes in attitudes. It is not outside possibility that this new affidavit which makes and documents the most serious charges against the government will get some attention. If it does not, it will make a good magazine story.

You may not realize it, but Congress in amending the law in effect enacted a law directing the FBI to give me the JFK scientific tests it has been suppressing. The legislative history could not be clearer. The FBI dares not comply because it would then indict itself and the whole mythology would be ended. So it is playing the same games.

Present indications are that this mythology is going to come apart. The real questions as I see them are when and how. The government's plan is to deter this as much as possible and then to attempt a new whitewash and another kind of covering up. In this, as the Rockefeller Report will soon enough show you, it will have been helped by those represented by the types you attempted to make appear responsible and to have done work they have not done.

What I am really saying is that Rolling Stone can be a responsible part of this coming apart if it can overcome its hangups of the past. It can publish what will attract more interest and attention than the foolish stuff and do some good at the same time.

On the chance, slight as it may be, I take this time.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

P.S. If you want a copy of this affidavit, which will include laying criminal charges on the government, it costs me 10 cents a page for xeroxing. I do not know how long it will be because Jim Lesar is now putting it in the form he as a lawyer prefers. I also do not know how much documentation he plans to attach.