May 6, 1971

Mr. Paul M. Rothermel, Jr.
2406 Little Creek Drive
Richardson, Texas 75080

Dear Paul:

I have just returned from an exhausting trip to New York facing a large accumulation and have several new urgencies.

First, on the Post: They are interested. They have returned the complaint. At the present stage, at least not without more material, I think it unlikely they will do a story. Perhaps with what may have appeared in the Dallas papers this could be done, and I will be glad to take it to them.

With regard to the literary matters, based on our earlier discussions, I have unofficially undertaken to act as your agent without committing you to anything. There was, of course, very little time with all the other things I had to do in New York. I can tell you only that there can be considdrable interest if the material you have is what I estimate it to be. However, without looking at it, nobody can know. I did these two things: I discussed it again at lunch yesterday with a friend in a large publishing house and Sunday night I showed only the complaint in the few moments we had to a friend in the movie business to give him an idea of the flavor of what might be available. I offered the opinion to both that this has the potential of another Citizen Kane.

I do not know what you have committed to paper. I would be inclined to guess that, with the training of a lawyer and the background of a professional investigator, it would not be couched in the kind of language that would capture the imagination of those who judge by literary values.

Without knowing more, I am also limited in the recommendations I can make. If I thought there were possibilities I could get to Dallas at any time in the foreseeable future (and unless somebody wants me to make a speech for which they would pay, it is now impossible because of the state of my finances and the pressures on my time), the one thing I have recently done with another portentially valuable literary property is not possible. In that case, I sat down with the woman who had a beautiful yet tragic story to tell and sent five hours of tapes of interview to a publisher with both of them agreeing that I was acting as her agent. If they see in this what I see, there can emerge a package deal of hardback, reprint and collateral rights such as movies which has the potential of yielding her a fine return. However, if the publisher does see it, he will have to have

a professional writer skilled in that kind of material do the actual writing and I would presume the same to be true in your case.

The publisher I have in mind is large and cannot be described as "liberal". It publishes "liberal material", yet it also publishes cnnservative material, including such things as government reports. I agree with your estimate, however, that the actual handling by someone with a liberal perspectdive might be desirable.

I had one other thing having to do with your comment on an amicus curiae, but because I am pressed for time, this will have to await our being face-to-face. There may be a possibility of using 5 U.S.S. 552, known as the Freedom of Information Act, if the FBI involvement is not as part of an investigation for law enforcement pubposes. If it in fact is not, then while they may claim immunity under this law they really do not have it. I have done a considerable amount of research on it, have accumulated afair number of decisions, etc.

When I am next in Washington, will show your letter to the man on the Post I backgrounded.

Sorry not to have more time at the moment.

One afterthought on the improbability of any group in Dallas having me as a speaker: Mary Ferrell, who is a friend and a conservative, has visited with me, knows me well and knows that my beliefs cover the entire political spectrum, depending on the issue. What I would like to be qble to discuss, and especially before a conservative as distinguished from a radical right audience, is the federal intrusions into local affairs in times of great crises as exemplified in Dallas and Memphis to the great detriment of local interests. If you have read through FRAME-UP, you know that I make quite a point of this.

Best regards,

Harold Weisberg

Dear Harold,

Your letters and suggestions are most welcome. Send me whatever clippings you can - I will be glad to send everything I have to your friend on the Post. Naturally the FBI is not going to allow any of its information out. The matter of whether a civil action in a wire tap case can be forced out of them may have to be decided by the supreme court. I may need a friend of the court attorney interested enough to file an amicus curia brief for a final ruling. Mitchell himself is holding up the criminal prosecution and of course I am fighting big money and politicians so it is a tough battle with little assets. Sometimes through the little people win and any help you can give would be appreciated.

Yes I need a writer-publisher for my material - I think your suggestions in this regard are good. I am not opposed to using a liberal publisher as he may be the only one who really understands.

Best regards

Paul