KENNEDY ASSASSINATION COMMISSION — RUSSELL, Richard B.

The only trouble with this chap is his [illegible] with Garrison [illegible] trust.

June 14, 1968

Senator:

Attached hereto is the information left with me by Mr. Harold Weisberg, who you will remember is the critic of the Warren Commission who met you briefly in the hall a week or so ago.

If the copy of the ~~transcript~~ or minutes attached is the only record in the Archives on what transpired at the September 18 meeting, it would appear to ~~have very~~ serious matter. Clearly, there are verbatim transcripts available for the other sessions of the Commission. The treatment of your exceptions to the first proposed draft of the report are obviously inadequate since no real mention is made of them in the attached copy. You will note that Weisberg has included a copy of the letter to him from the Archivist of the United States under date of May 20th of this year and in the third paragraph of that letter the statement is made "No verbatim transcript of the Executive Session of September 18, 1964 is known to be among the records of the Commission." The only explanation of this which I can think of is perhaps the verbatim transcript is still classified and not available at all. Weisberg requested that if you have sufficient interest in this matter to make an effort to see the records in the Archives, that you let him know first because he says he has some other information which he knows you would want to see before going to the trouble of making a contact at the Archives.

None made

With reference to his general criticisms of the Commission, he left with me four books which he has written and which have been published critical of the Commission and I have scanned them all and completely read the first one which was the only one that received very wide dissemination. His work is scholarly and evidences a tremendous amount of research. His basic approach is not to try to prove that Oswald was innocent although acceptance of his inferences, etc., lead to that conclusion.

His method is to restrict his criticism to the actual information which the Commission had and he is critical of the Commission only to the degree that it delegated too heavily to the staff. One of his strongest points of departure with the Commission is on the number of shots fired and on which shots hit Connally and/or the President. He completely agrees with your thesis that no one shot hit both President and the Governor. He apparently believes that there were at least four shots fired and probably more, thus destroying the possibility that Oswald acted alone and independently.

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Atlanta, Georgia

Two statements in his book which perhaps are of interest to you are on page 188 in his conclusions:

> "The Senators who questioned Marina Oswald at that mysterious Sunday night hearing in September, 1964 have serious doubts about the report that were confirmed by her performance."

Also:

> "To anyone with any experience in investigation or analysis, the most incredible part of the Commission's inquiry is its complete lack of question or criticism of the police. It just is not possible that the police are as incompetent as this record shows."

Weisberg was at one time a Senate investigator and, through research, he has apparently become very knowledgable on all aspects of the Kennedy Assassination.

I have any of his books which you may wish to see.

CEC

CEC:lrr