June 4, 1968

Mr. Charles Campbell
c/o Hon. Richard B. Russell
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Campbell:

Since speaking with you yesterday afternoon, I have been assigned continuing interviews at the American Booksellers' convention today. I will be interviewing other writers when I had hoped to hand the enclosed to you and explain it. Later in the day I'll be preparing for and doing an early-evening TV show that will last three hours. Therefore, this brief explanation.

The enclosed is the last of the executive sessions of the Warren Commission, at least so far as they exist officially. It is not a transcript but has been done over to pretend it is one. It is the one in which, from his interview with the Atlanta Constitution, the Senator recorded his apparently deep misgivings about some of the deficiencies of the evidence and accepted a compromise that I fear he never understood and that, if he did, he could not accept. Nonetheless, that record he left for history has no official existence today.

I have in my possession almost all the official transcripts of the executive sessions. What he says he said - and I am without doubt that he said it - is in none of them. Those transcripts that are withheld - and I am confident the reasons given in some cases are frivolous - are said not to contain his words. I have the proper written assurances of this and the completeness of what I have.

The earlier transcripts were prepared by the official reporter, Ward and Paul. This one was not. It clearly has been retyped, on different paper, with a different typewriter, even in a different style. The names of the reporters appear on the genuine transcripts. They are not here.

The first page may be a literal copy of the real transcript. If this is the case, the four short lines at the bottom are all of the verbatim transcription of the exact words spoken. There it ends. Beginning at the top of the second page, the so-called transcript becomes a paraphrasing. On the sheet numbered 7654, the second paragraph may be the only reference to what Senator Russell said, and I would hope, if this is the case, that he will find it less than a record of what he said and desired recorded.

Also, may I ask you to examine the page numbered 7656? The middle paragraph refers to the enormous number of exhibits dumped into the record. It does not even say the Commission approved incorporating these documents in its printed record.

As you realize, I have called this to the Senator's personal attention in a way that assures him I will make no public use of anything he might tell me in any possible response. I have also limited myself to this single thing because I believe it is important to him, personally, aside from being important to all of us who want the truth. I have not the slightest doubt that the staff never adequately informed the Senator of the truth as it was then known, or even of the evidence then in the record (carefully as it had by that staff been controlled and directed). If the Senator had really been given an understanding of this uncontraverted evidence, he would not have agreed to the compromise he did for it is irrelevant to his objection. It was a sop given him. It does not meet the objections he raised. The Senator had put his finger on one of the key flaws in the projected Report. Had he not been imposed upon, the Report as issued could not have been issued with his approval. Now, history has been rewritten to eliminate what he recorded.

I am sorry the copy of my first book never reached the Senator. It was mailed with a covering letter in early May 1966. Since then I have learned how undependable the mail of a writer working in this field can be. So, here are my four published books. The fifth is completed, in manuscript form. I have in my possession every document I refer to and several thousand more. On the basis of confidence, all are accessible to the Senator, you, or anyone he designates. I cannot transport all my files to Washington, but I will make them available here, about an hour and a quarter from your office, or I can take a selection in to show you or the Senator. I have some unpublished ones that I think will really shock him, despite what he must know by now.

These are four large books, despite their seeming small size. I know the Senator will not have time to read them. Perhaps you will be able to glance at them. In any event, ask any questions you want. I think you will find them close to totally without error and that the few minor errors are built in the work of the Commission staff and are unavoidable to the analyst. In any event, the record shows that not a single member of the staff has, either to my face or in any other way, alleged even a single error on my part. I have challenged them all to confront me, called one a deliberate, repetitive liar and dared him to sue me, and there is naught but silence. Not a single error has been attributed to me in all the sycophantic writing of which I am aware. In these cases the technique has been to allege that Lane and Weisberg say or Epstein and Weisberg say and then quote the other man. The two of three cases that seem otherwise are willful misquotations. When you consider the magnitude of what I have published, I think you will agree this is a unique record of accuracy.

My fifth book is on the autopsy.

If you want to know my thinking, aside from as it is revealed in my examination of the evidence, may I recommend the introduction to WHITEWASH, the epilogue to WHITEWASH II, and the Introduction to PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH. The books appeared in this order.

Jim Garrison wrote what I regard as a brilliant foreword to my OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS. He is my friend, a dedicated man who has, I am utterly convinced, no political motive (and I would find this proper if he had one, for ours is a political society). He wants the truth, nothing else. He is under federal pressures I am certain the Senator would find intolerable if he were aware of them. The open federal intrusions in a state matter on any other subject would prompt an enormous outcry. I work with Mr. Garrison, informally. I am familiar with much of what I believe his evidence will be because it is or is from or connected with my work. I may be able to answer any questions you or the Senator may have about this aspect. Certainly there are things I have independently established in my personal investigations in New Orleans that I think the Senator should be aware of. In any event, my relationship with Mr. Garrison and our trust in each other is such that I would have no misgivings about seeking from him, on a basis of strictest confidence, anything you or the Senator might desire. I am confident that, if this were to be something not improper, he would be anxious for the Senator to know whatever he might want to.

This has become a subject of unimaginable vastness, largely by design, to make impossible the finding of what is essential to the determination and establishment of truth and to make recollection of what can be learned impossible. I am popularly credited with total recall, and I assure you this is flattery, for I cannot now recall half of what I have already learned. However, I have no doubt that I carry clearly in mind the essence of all the things I have discovered and, at your convenience, will tell you whatever you might want to know about any of the evidence, my own investigations, or any other aspects. Should you or anyone else the Senator might select want to discuss this subject with me, I would suggest that we try to spend an evening together.

And should you want to learn anything about me, my Congressman, the Honorable Charles McC. Mathias, knows me well enough, I think, to give me a good character.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg