

July 29

Dear Mr Weisberg,

My roommate and I wish to thank you for reassuring us that in the incredible mass of dishonesty which is filtered through the newspapers and public communications media, there are still a few people unafraid and unapathetic enough to find and put forth the truth as they see it.

We wish to congratulate you on your conduct and self control on the Alan Burke show. Incidentally who employed those lawyers who seemed to be working together quite practically to filibuster you, and yet who had not enough interest in the subject to have even read your book?

Our local bookstore is sold out of your book and we intend to vigorously recommend and/or buy copies for as many of our friends as possible and spread at least a ripple of truth in ever widening circles.

We found - and depending on your preconceived ideas on the subject you may or may not resent this -

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We found a great similarity in the government's handling of this case to what Frank Edwards, the NICAF organization and John G. Fuller have encountered in their handling of UFO reports from police, air force personnel, radar technicians and other evidence given by highly reliable witnesses. (You might find their books interesting from this angle alone)

We are equally distressed over this situation - and indeed, the total implications of the whole dishonesty, conspiracy and disregard for "the public" on the part of the government.

Our best wishes and sincere admiration... There must be a public congressional hearing on this Kennedy business ---

Would it be going too far to say that either the government

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seems to be covering up an international situation which would cause a clamour in the public for a world war if the facts of the assassination were known, or some plot among themselves? As you say, I suppose you cannot really discuss such speculations responsibly.

Very truly yours,
Rachel Steinhardt
and
Joan A. Gotti

20734

August 1, 1968

Dear Misses Steinhardt and Gotti,

Your encouraging letter means much to us, and we do thank you for it. When we get such letters - and we've had a deluge from the Alan Burke show - it makes the difficulties of the past have more meaning. It is kind of you young women to take the time to write, and may ~~we~~ I say that as long as citizens, especially the younger ones who will soon enough have their own responsibilities to bear, are willing to participate ~~is~~, express their opinions and not shun criticisms, then to that degree at least the democratic society is functioning.

I'd like to have time to answer your thoughtful letter as it deserves, but I just haven't. In haste, I do not know who the lawyers represented or who got them there or on whose behalf they thought there might be a profit in destroying me/my book. I dare say that ~~who~~ whoever they acted for regret the entire thing. I do not; I think it was wonderful, and it served to let those people who saw the show that it is the critics of the phoney inquest who are responsible and factual, not their opponents, and that criticism is what the viability of our society requires, not suppression and obfuscation.

That your local bookstore is sold out makes us both happy and sorry. All the bookstores, of course, can get WHITWASH from us. But they can also get it from their regular wholesalers. The two largest in NYC ordered an additional 1500 last week! Thanks for your efforts in telling you friends about the book. This is important to us and to the cause of truth and justice and national honor, at least as we see it.

I am, as a matter of fact, interested in the Edwards book and its subject and I got two copies, one for a friend. I've just been too busy to read my copy.

Your conclusion in the form of a question parallels my chapter "The False Oswald" to a large degree. I found it was possible to present some of the evidence without conjecture, without irresponsibility, and I expect in the future to do more with it.

Again, our sincere appreciation for your kind expression and your taking the time to express them.

Very truly yours,

Harold Weisberg