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Sept. 6, 1966

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Hyattstown, Md.

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

In these times one should be more careful than I was in using such a word as "extremism." It was an unfortunate choice and of course I wasn't characterizing either you or Nizer as extremists except in a limited--and I hoped, contextual--sense.

What I was trying to point out was the wide extremes of interpretation by those who had studied the Report. Nizer said the Report settled everything; you believed it settled nothing except the bias and collusiveness of Commission members in seconding an erroneous series of conclusions. Where Lane, Epstein and Sauvage cited the Commission's sloppiness and mistakenness, you frequently attribute to it a willful misrepresentation. It was in this sense that I described WHITEWASH as one of two extremes. Forgive me if it sounded otherwise.

In the near future I intend to do a followup column in which I shall clarify the remark. Thank you also for your detailed letter, some of which will be incorporated in the next article.

I sympathize with your difficulties in finding a publisher for WHITEWASH. Sauvage says he ran into the same problem with THE OSWALD AFFAIR--editors enthusastic but unwilling to accept the manuscript unless he withdrew his conclusion that Oswald can only be considered innocent, since there is far more than a reasonable doubt of his guilt. Lane apparently had no such difficulty with his book and I wonder why. Epstein, of course, drew no conclusions from the damaging material he turned up.

I can't help, finally, but regret the competitiveness of the critics of the Report. Sauvage, for instance, disparages the work of Lane on political grounds, and you seem unduly concerned with being "first" to bring up this or that aspect. I can appreciate that there may be some commercial factor involved. But with such a subject as this it seems slightly demeaning to worry over "the competition." Nobody, after all, is going to write the definitive ~~xirx~~ criticism of the Report--just as nobody wrote a definitive Report.

Sincerely,

Donald Stanley