August 28, 1968

Mr. James J. Rowley
Chief, United States Secret Service
Washington, D. C. 20226

Dear Mr. Rowley:

With that special attention my mail has often received since I began investigating and writing about the Kennedy assassination and its inquest, your letter of August 23 required but five days to cover the 50 miles between us. I answer immediately because I want to impress upon you that I do know whereof I speak and do want to prevent additional, unnecessary scandals and tragedies.

I encourage you to consider, for whatever my opinion is worth, that, unless you help me resolve the quite obvious conflict, there inevitably will at some time be a very serious reflection on the Secret Service and you as its Director. Briefly, I will explain this to you with the offer to go into much further detail if you so desire.

You say, "the Secret Service had no information pertaining to the assassination of President Kennedy which was not furnished to the Commission and its staff. The Secret Service has no information, reports or evidence pertaining to the assassination of President Kennedy which was not turned over to the National Archives as directed by the Attorney General."

Because I do not want this to be on the level of semantics, I will avoid discussion of the selection of words and tenses, but I suggest to you that this seemingly direct language is subject to the interpretation of evasiveness. I am not saying this is your intent, but I do tell you IIhave been making andintensive study of documentary materials that are too often designed to be untruthful while giving the opposite impression.

Let us assume, as I am willing to, that these are truthful statements. If they are, then some or all of these things that I believe should be of the greatest interest to that part of the government charged with the President's security necessarily follow:

I. The Commission, meaning one or more members or one or more of the staff,

   A. Deliberately ignored threats against the President's life that the Secret Service took seriously;

   B. Deliberately misrepresented in its Report or suppressed what it had been told by the Secret Service;

   C. Deliberately removed from the files material of this nature

before the files were transferred to the Archives;

D. Deliberately removed other references to this material so it could not subsequently be located;

E. Enlisted the cooperation of the FBI to make all of this possible.

II. The National Archives

A. Has destroyed or deliberately mislaid this evidence so it could not be found and used by those studying the assassination;

Be. Deliberately permitted it to be stolen (for, if any charged-out material is missing when it is looked for, there is a written record of who had access to it in a guarded, restricted area);

C. Deliberately lies and says the files do not contain what they do.

III. The FBI

A. Deliberately withheld from the Secret Service what it was required to offer it;

B. Deliberately lied in saying the Secret Service had made investigations, whereas the Secret Service had not.

The foregoing relates to threats to kill President Kennedy. Let me now make reference to other evidence required to be in the files and, according to the Archivist of the United States, not there.

There is evidence that was and properly should have been in the possession of the Secret Service that was, in electrostatic copy, given to the Commission. It is required to be in its files and is not there. This the Secret Service has in its original form or knows where the originals are. This evidence, from everything I know, has every prospect of being entirely inconsistent with the official representation of it.

There is evidence that properly should have been in the possession of the Secret Service that should be in the Commission files and is not. What I said above is also true of the originals.

I can expand considerably upon all of the above. If you so desire, I will. If you want to see the documentary proof of all I have said, I will gladly make it available to you or describe it to you, at your office or in my home, whichever you prefer, if you would so desire. Whether or not you accept this offer is entirely up to you. I make but one reservation: I am a writer and regard what I have dug up as a valuable literary property. In return, I expect only

that you do nothing without my permission that would in any way jeopardize it.

At some point, I will be publishing the result of my work. Only my inability to pay the printer has thus far delayed it. I have two books already written in which what I have told you is relevant. They will be published. The representation of the Secret Service will come from the record that, over the years, I have been calling to your attention. The above representation is one that I, were I its director, would not rest content with.

If there is any error, I solicit your correction. If you have any interest in correcting the record, you will have, if you want it, my unrestricted cooperation. I think it is an unnecessary, additional national scandal.

Yours truly,

Harold Weisberg