

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHER DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
EASTERN DIVISION

Harold Weisberg,  
Rt 8, Frederick, Md.  
Platiff

Civil Action No. \_\_\_\_\_

v.

Sherman Skolnick,  
9800 South Oglesby Avenue  
Chicago, Ill.  
Defendant

COMPLAINT

1. Plaintiff is a writer who has established an international reputation for his investigations and writings about political assassinations, especially that of the late President John F. Kennedy.

*Plaintiff* (copyrighted and)  
2. ~~he~~ has published eight books on this subject, the first and best-known of which is titled WHITEWASH, ~~and~~ The last ~~book~~ two, a single work in two parts (hereinafter ~~referred to as~~ ~~two~~ ~~books~~ ), is titled COUP D'ETAT.

*Both*  
3. ~~Two~~ parts of the work deal with ~~an~~ alleged plots to assassinate the late *Kennedy* President in Chicago, Illinois, *ed* One involving one Thomas Arthur Valle, *Another is* ~~and~~ ~~the other~~ ~~is~~ *ed* claimed by and involving ~~an~~ account of the history and troubles of Abraham Bolden, a former ~~Secret~~ agent of the United States Secret Service.

4. In the course of investigating and writing the work, author obtained *several agents. One, is* the services of ~~one~~ *wh* Russ Trunzo, a former reporter, then living in Chicago, *and* ~~who~~ *ed* ~~acted~~ *Plaintiff* as his agent in pursuing further certain facts, including those embodied in certain reports of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, obtained by and for the author from the National Archives and Records Service, part of the United States

add to <sup>par.</sup> 4.

Trunzo, acting as Plaintiff's agent, also obtained for plaintiff certain records relating to the estate of said Valle, of the City of Chicago, to which Plaintiff directed him, solely for purposes of

this work, of which they are part and to which Plaintiff added certain interpretations <sup>and meanings</sup> of his own. These City of Chicago records had never before had such interpretations placed upon them and had never before been used in public or in any other literary work or any book or writing of any kind or character.



including <sup>heretofore described</sup> heretofore referred to, the materials relating to said Vallet and said Bolden.

8. To this end, Defendant Skolnick communicated with Trunzo and, under the pretext he would help, improperly obtain from him <sup>the property of Plaintiff, including</sup> electrostatic

copies of the ~~reports of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Bureau~~

heretofore referred to documents described in paragraph 4, above. Defendant

knew these were part of the work, the property of <sup>Plaintiff,</sup> the author, for Trunzo

so informed him. Defendant, <sup>by subterfuge and</sup> with intended and deliberate deception, disarmed and

earned the confidence of Trunzo with his assurance <sup>telephone and get the permission of</sup> he would communicate with

Plaintiff the following night, at approximately 10 p.m., which he never did.

Defendant also told others with whom he associated or attempted to associate him-

self he was going to visit Plaintiff, also claiming he had been in touch with

Plaintiff

Defendant, had an appointment with Plaintiff and other such false statements.

Defendant gave the press and others the impression he was in a friendly relation-

ship with Plaintiff, whereas they were total strangers, no communication of any

kind having passed between them.

9. Radio Stations WRSV<sup>10</sup> and WCFL did combine with Defendant to take for themselves and their benefit and profit the work and property of Plaintiff, the former on or about March 20, 1970, the latter beginning before and on or about April 7, 1970 and thereafter. In violation of law, custom, practise and regulation, both stations have failed and have refused to provide Plaintiff

add to par 9.

Plaintiff's letters to the manager and news director of Radio Station WCFL were both returned to Plaintiff, the station <sup>ignominiously</sup> representing itself to the United States Postal ~~Service~~ <sup>office</sup> to be unknown. Plaintiff's letter to the news director was written at the news director's request and ~~on his~~ representation it was required by management as a condition of providing said tapes and releases and other matters to Plaintiff, none of which WCFL or any of its employees has ever done.

with tape recordings of their broadcasts of his work, <sup>robbed and</sup> ~~of the~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~stolen~~ <sup>used</sup> ~~by~~ by

~~Defendants~~ Plaintiff Skolnick, in which each combined, in violation of the law and the

rights of Plaintiff. They have also refused to provide <sup>Plaintiff</sup> ~~him~~ with other uses of

his work, such as press releases. In fact, they have refused to answer his <sup>repeated</sup>

letters. Radio Station WRSV had a minor employee phone Plaintiff and false <sup>ly</sup> ~~claim~~

the tape of their broadcast of Defendant, carefully staged and involving Colum-

bia College and his class at Columbia College, had disappeared, immediately and

completely. One Ed Lucht, manager of WRSV, refused to speak to Plaintiff on the

telephone and has not in any way responded to Plaintiff's letters, the first of

<sup>March 21,</sup> which was written and mailed <sup>the</sup> morning after the usurpation of Plaintiff's

property, rights and name by <sup>Defendant</sup> ~~him~~ and <sup>said Defendant and Lucht WRSV</sup> ~~his~~ Station, <sup>and</sup> Defendant. Whereas respon-

sible employees of WCFL, namely the News Director, under whose direction and super-

vision Plaintiff's work was wrongfully, improperly and illegally used, and the

reporter assigned to work with Defendant, both promised to send Plaintiff tapes,

releases and other uses of his material, expressing themselves as regretting it,

they were ordered by management and counsel for WCFL not only not to do this but

not to communicate to Plaintiff that they would not. <sup>Add here</sup>

<sup>fact it was by one fraud identity</sup>  
10. Defendant presents and publicizes himself as an expert on the

assassination of the late President. While pretending to hold and express kind

opinions of those actually conducting investigations and doing <sup>the</sup> ~~writing~~ <sup>1</sup>, he is

and in unguarded moments expresses himself as contemptuous of them and gives others falsely to understand that he has made a close study, has unique and rare capabilities and skills, ~~and he~~ will perform miracles in the field, and solve the mysteries remaining as he will solve the murder. Defendant ~~has~~ <sup>holds</sup> and is in no way reluctant to express an exalted opinion of <sup>him</sup> self.

11/ The truth is Defendant has <sup>done</sup> no original work in this field, is ignorant of the most basic fact, has neither ~~read~~ nor understood the official accounting of the crime by the United States Government, as embodied in the Warren Report, has <sup>never</sup> ~~made~~ <sup>any</sup> ~~not even the faintest~~ effort to obtain any materials or evidence from the official repository, the National Archives, <sup>Defendant</sup> ~~and~~ substitutes for fact and reality an exotic blending of his imaginings and <sup>desires, which he wishes,</sup> ~~will,~~ mixed with what he ~~has~~ <sup>has</sup> stolen from Plaintiff, ~~not unusually corrupting it and its meaning.~~

12. Having combined with <sup>Said radio stations</sup> ~~to~~ to deprive Plaintiff of the use, rights and benefits of Plaintiff's property, the work herein ~~is~~ referred to, Defendant filed in this honorable court an entirely fictitious paper <sup>that</sup> for ~~no~~ reason not

<sup>Civil Action</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>Identified as 70C 790</sup> ~~unrelated to fact or law, what~~ he describes as a "suit" against said National Archives, ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> contaminated by <sup>only with</sup> ~~the only~~ ~~touch~~ of reality ~~is~~ what Defendant

stole from Plaintiff. <sup>a/</sup> Said "suit" is, indeed, <sup>possess</sup> ~~is~~ a remarkable self-indictment of an ego as uninhibited as its ~~own~~ <sup>is</sup> is uninformed and unconcerned. In <sup>it</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>Defendant</sup> charges the suppression of what he has never asked for, of what was ~~not~~ not only

not suppressed but was

widely publicized and used by the Government, ~~is~~ that which is both

central to its Warren Report and reproduced in facsimile in it and elsewhere.

relating to the order of the rifle allegedly used in the assassination. In ~~it~~,  
*is*  
*for*

to cover his theft of Plaintiff's work, ~~he~~ <sup>Defendant</sup> falsely claims the National Archives,

"having kept the same suppressed for some six years...recently released certain

documents relating to the events", ~~These~~ <sup>are</sup> ~~being~~ the documents stolen by Defendant

from Plaintiff, ~~said~~ <sup>These</sup> documents ~~never~~ <sup>were</sup> ~~having been~~ withheld by the National Archives

and ~~has~~ <sup>been</sup> in the possession of Plaintiff for a long period of time. ~~He~~ <sup>Defendant</sup>

further claims said National Archives, "without explanation, arbitrarily

suppresses or releases documents, papers and exhibits", whereas the National

Archives never makes "releases" of this material in its custody and is, in fact,

controlled by law and regulation. ~~This~~ <sup>the National Archives</sup> is not to say that ~~it~~ always acts in con-

formity with ~~said~~ law and regulation, but it is to say that Defendant has no

knowledge of what he speaks of, which seems to be characteristic, and invents

what suits his immediate purposes, whatever they may be.

13. This "suit" of Defendant, identified as Civil Action 700 790,

has none of the qualities, characteristics or purposes of an action at law and is,

~~in fact~~, <sup>fact,</sup> an imposition on the court and the law as it is on the Plaintiff. It seeks

to ~~impose~~ <sup>imposes</sup> a law which ~~has~~ certain requirements on those who would use it, beginning

with a proper request for government material. Beginning with this request,

Defendant has conformed ~~and~~ and complied with no single requirement of the law <sup>the promulgated</sup> and regulations ~~promulgated~~ under it. His "suit", in fact, displays an unparalleled

ignorance of both the law and regulations, <sup>as well as ordinary common sense.</sup> ~~and in no way reflects even the~~ "suit" ~~existence of said regulations.~~ This ~~suit~~ bears no closer relationship to

relevant law and regulation than the garlic wafted over the stew. It is spurious, frivolous, fictitious, incompetent beyond the power of articulate man ~~to~~

adequately to describe, has no standing and serves no certain purposes other than ~~the gratification of~~ Defendants exalted concept of himself <sup>and his craving for publicity and to deprive</sup> ~~and the depriva-~~

~~tion of Plaintiff of his rights, but~~ <sup>It/ man</sup> ~~any~~ well serve purposes quite the opposite of what is professed. <sup>is an improper use of this honorable writ for</sup> ~~ulterior and wrongful, other than lawful ends.~~

Said "Civil Action 706 790"

and publicity mg

"Sunt"? ~~is~~

14. The mere filing of such a nightmare described as a ~~cause of action~~

<sup>actual</sup> in itself serves to mask the violations of law and regulation, the real suppressions of evidence relating to the assassination of the late President Kennedy, by the <sup>federal</sup> government. While Defendant is loud and publicizes himself in the course of proclaiming others, like ~~the~~ defendants in the recent, so called "Chicago Seven" case (also known as "The Conspiracy"), are "agents of the government, he could himself be no more effective an agent of the government in its illegalities, in its own violation of its own law and regulations, in its actual suppressions.

among / results / ~~one of the purposes~~

Defendant had the flustered collaboration of the radio Stations WRSV and WOFL, which

assisted him in the alleged "preparation" of the suit, according to the public press and acknowledgement to Plaintiff by an involved employee of WCFL, will be to make ~~it~~<sup>it</sup> seem that the government is behaving itself properly and in accord with law and regulation; that there is no suppression; that those charging such misconduct, misrepresentation and suppression against ~~it~~ are as separated from their wits as Defendant; and that their suits, which are proper and properly prepared, are of as evil a character, as improper a purpose, as without worth or honesty, as his. In each instance the contrary is the fact.

*the inevitable and inevitable disposition of*

15. Whether or not so calculated and contrived, <sup>1</sup> (this Civil Action 700 790<sup>2</sup> is a perfect front end cover for the continuing real violations of law and regulation by the ~~federal government~~, an ideal mask to make it <sup>2</sup> seem that the ~~Federal Government~~ is not violating law and regulation, is not suppressing that which is real and is suppressed, ~~and~~<sup>it</sup> could no better serve such improper purposes and functions if Defendant were a hired agent of the ~~Federal Government~~, of which Plaintiff has no knowledge. However, Plaintiff submits the record is so vividly that of an agent serving a master, both engaged in illegalities and improprieties, whether the Defendant gets any reward over and above the gratification of a sick ego is irrelevant and immaterial.

16. Plaintiff had filed one action under the so-called "Freedom of Information" law and, to the knowledge of the federal government, by virtue of

*Plaintiffs*

~~the~~ letters and statements to proper <sup>Plaintiffs</sup> government authorities and employees, and ~~representatives~~, <sup>going back to 1966,</sup> his negotiations with them, his compliance with the detailed requirements of the law and regulations, of which, in each and every case, the executive agency involved has to be informed, plans and is preparing a series of other similar, legitimate actions. The preparation of these cases and the

*They represent Plaintiff's own effort and are the result of considerable cost in time and money to him.*

prerequisites extend backward in time for several years. Such suits cannot and

<sup>or necessarily, or</sup> should not be brought with frivolity, for ulterior purposes, like self-seeking

publicity, <sup>They</sup> and do require painstaking and time-consuming care in their preparation,

as they also require the seeking of available administrative remedy. Others beside

Plaintiff have filed and are considering filing other suits for the release of

that which is real and is still suppressed relating to the assassination of the

late President Kennedy and other ~~other~~ matters which they believe <sup>d/</sup> related thereto.

<sup>improper and illegal</sup>  
17. The net effect of Defendant's actions, whether or not their design

and intent, is to undermine and vitiate the legitimate actions of people of

serious and honorable purpose; to make it seem as though all such suits are as

devoid of legitimacy and as ulterior in purpose as said "Civil Action 70C 790",

to convey to the people and the news media these false and prejudicial beliefs

in and about the people concerned and their actions; and to make it appear that

all such suits are as spurious as said "Civil Action 70C 790." *This would be serious, if not irreparable, damage to Plaintiff and others and their efforts, work and property.*

18. Defendants thievery is so undisguised, so open and blatant despite

his contrary misrepresentations, he did not even deign to duplicate Plaintiff's work by ~~writing the National Archives for duplicates of Plaintiff's documents,~~

*obtaining his own copies (which would it had been wrong and illegal)*

~~Instead stealing these copies and their use, the proof of which is identifiable marks~~

*he stole Plaintiff's This is proved by*

*and by other means, to fact*

~~marks, the only thing faithful in all of Defendants public utterances and said~~

*is from this theft.*

Civil Action 70C 790. Moreover, in those ~~places~~ places where other than irrational

*alleged were and*

or insene interpretations are made, they are only those of the said work, nothing else

*said by Defendant.*

reasonable, rational or at all credible being ~~mentioned~~. This is not because there

*Plaintiff's work;*

is not more that can be said and is said in ~~COUR DECREE~~, it is merely because

by Defendant did not have access to the complete work and therefore was limited

*steal and*

in what he could plagiarize.

19. This literary purpoing, in which Defendant was joined by Radio

*without right a permission also*

Stations WRSV and WCFL, both of which ~~exploited~~ exploited Plaintiff's work for their own

*and his rights and property*

profit and benefit, is seriously damging to Plaintiff, as is the prostitution

*A " " also*

of law and the courts bedded in Civil Action 70C 790. It is ~~damaging~~ damaging to others

seriously and deeply concerned about the political assassinations, of which that of

the late President is but one, and who have invested ~~an immense~~ *unconsiderable* time and labor

and what for them are significant sums of money in researching, writing and in

~~including serious and responsible suits at law,~~ *and the* various other ways, seeking to bring to public attention the truth and the fact

*not official*

~~suppression of the truth.~~ *both and contrary* It is damaging to the national interest and honor.

It serves to protect those guilty and not brought before the bar of justice, and

It is against the public interest in establishment and acceptance of truth about

these assassination as it is against public interest in the ~~sanctity~~

sanctity of the courts and legal processes, <sup>The courts</sup> ~~which~~ <sup>made to serve</sup> should never be ~~converted into~~

nefarious, fraudulent, frivolous, contemptuous self-seeking purposes, which

~~lead to~~ bring the courts and the judicial and legal processes into disrepute.

~~20. The Plaintiff, for the facts and reasons set forth~~

20. Plaintiff, as a consequence of the ~~enormous~~ <sup>in money and</sup> cost of his own

time and labor in this field, where he has spent days, sometimes without end,

for more than six years, in original work, is without means of obtaining counsel

within the jurisdiction of this honorable court. He therefore suffers the added

handicap of having to serve as his own <sup>counsel</sup>, a task for which he freely acknowledges he is

<sup>neither suited nor</sup> ~~is ill~~ prepared. If it is proper, he would welcome appointment of local counsel

by the honorable court to assist him in the endeavor embodied in this complaint.

21. Plaintiff, for reasons only part of which are set forth in the

foregoing paragraphs of this complaint, respectfully petitions the honorable

court to:

A). Dismiss with prejudice the imposition on the court of the melding

of thievery, irresponsibility, irrationalities, diseased imaginings, misbegotten

concepts and possible agency embodied in the pretense of a cause at law identified

as Civil Action 70C 790.

B) Enjoin Defendant  
~~Enjoining Defendant~~ and his collaborators, named in the foregoing and  
*theft and*  
 unnamed, from any further misuse of Plaintiff's work;

C) Award such punishment <sup>for</sup> the abuse and misuse of the court  
 " *the law prescribes and*  
 represented by Civil Action 70C 790 as in its wisdom it ~~deems~~ adequate and  
 appropriate;

D) Assess against Defendant and his collaborators, including but not  
 limited to Radio Stations WRSV and WCFL, and award Plaintiff, such damages as  
 it shall consider warranted.

*22. A copy of this complaint has been sent Defendant  
 by mail.*