June 27, 1967

Mr. Arlen Specter
District Attorney
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Specter,

As you well know, in the past year you have declined numerous invitations to debate me on the work of the Warren Commission and your work on it. You are also aware of the fact that I have steadfastly declined to exploit this. When you declined to debate me even though fortified by other of your former colleagues and championed by Louis Nizer on an American TV station, with the prospect of syndication for the program, you at that very moment went all the way to England to appear on a rigged TV show. Through this, too, I kwas silent. I rather suspect you know my reason. In each case I made a specific request that you not be put in a position that forced upon you a greater share of the responsibility for the additional national tragedy that was wrought than is properly yours. I have sought neither goats nor heros, only the truth.

Your appearances on the also-rigged and entirely dishonest CBS series dismays me for a number of reason, most of all because you have done this in the midst of a political campaign. This puts you in the position of exploiting your own transgressions for personal profit. When you could, as on those many occasions when you could have opposition from someone who has knowledge of the fact and of your own record, declined to say anything, instead you engaged in further misrepresentation. You did this when guaranteed a vast audience. You did it knowing that what you said is untrue.

This is much worse than the lies you have uttered in the past on this same subject, for then youxwere not engaged in a political campaign, not in a position to derive personal profit from your lies, although they gave you such tremendous national attention that may have made you more acceptable as a candidate and thus yielded political profit.

This CBS series contains other statements that to your knowledge are lies. Especially the statement that the autopsy doctors saw the pictures of the autopsy prior to their return to government possession and in a context really saying as part of their testimony. If there is anyone in the world who knows this is false it is you. The course of honor is clear. The national need also is clear.

I call upon you to retract your own false statements on this show and to disavow those others of which you have knowledge. If you did not write those passages of the Report you nonetheless know the irrefutable evidence is that there was a "missed" shot that could not be associated with any shot that hit the car or any of its occupants. Thus you cannot honestly say, as you did, that each of the three shots the Commission acknowledges were fired during the assassination struck a single man. Your CBS accounting, not the first time you have hinted at it, does not account for an additional shot and you know it.

That you now seek personal gain from the national scandal you helped bring about is a shocking thing to me.

Sincerely, Harold Weisberg