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September 1, 1966

Dear Mel and Paul,

The notion that I did something not to your liking or that will make a problem persists. I can hope only that I didn't or that if I did it is not insurmountable, for you and everyone else at your station has been wonderful and have done and are doing things I believe of vast significance.

If it was my persistence on establish ^{with} truth and fact, I have a confession to make. I didn't press as hard as I should have. There is a significant inaccuracy in something Lane said that I really should have done something about. Faced with a situation that involved you, I made the wrong decision and was silent. It is totally false that "Lovelady" testified that he was wearing a striped shirt. This makes sense only as part of a campaign against Warren and the other members of the Commission personally. The most conspicuous thing about the entire Lovelady thing is that he was not asked to testify and was not asked in the various FBI and Secret Service interrogations. These were so numerous, going back to the night of the assassination of the next night, I do not now recall which, that he could not place their number. You will soon see this in perspective, a perspective I believe Paul understands, when you see, as you soon shall, the chapter entitled "The Lovelady Paper" in the work I am now doing. Lovelady did not testify before the Commission. He gave a deposition to Assistant Counsel Ball at 3:50 p.m. April 7, 1964, in the office of the U.S. Attorney, Room 301 Post Office Bldg., Dallas (6H336-41). It is a scant 5 pages long.

I now regret not having paid attention to the other footage you used. Instead, I spent that time talking to Jim and looking for something. If it is the same footage used on Today or has the same content, there is a serious error in it that, while it seems not to have embarrassed ~~any~~ NBC, might embarrass you. It is entirely false that the grassy-knoll witness saw a Secret Service agent stand up in the President's car at the time the shots were fired. The existing photographic record is abundant. Because I know Lane's proclivities as you do not, I should have been on the alert. I accept full responsibility for this mistake in judgement and can hope only that there is nothing questionable in any of the footage.

Paul will remember I at first was reluctant to appear on a show with Lane because I do not want this matter to degenerate into what to me is an unseemly kind of a scrap. Since then I have learned this is impossible, ^{to avoid} that sooner or later it will have to happen, and the sooner the better. If and when there is another joint appearance, it will be of a different character. Other things have happened with which I shall not burden you.

All the way home I was thinking of this, worrying, and feeling I had returned something else for good done me. I did not so intend. And as I thought about this, it dawned upon me that you have, either through accident or wisdom, made another substantial and important contribution to the honest unravelling of this thing. First we had the lawyers and their attitude. Now we have the learned, the intellectuals. Thus we are, perhaps subtly, showing the collapse of respon-

sibility in our society, in the parts of the society that should provide leadership and direction. This is an important part of the story for, together with the sad story of the press, it explains how the Report could be accepted by the great mass of our people, or at least ~~quét~~ them. I hope you will preserve at least a sound tape of the entire thing. I would very much like a copy of it, subject to any restriction or reservation you might care to impose, to have available for an archive that is planned in a major university. I would also want for myself a copy of no matter what quality of what you air, ~~responsibility~~ for a record. I regret I cannot get your station here. Perhaps I can see it on Washington's Ch. 5, which is yours, also. Other values may ~~evetuate~~. I hope you can keep the record.

N Nor was it until I was driving home that I realized I had inadvertently written "A Night In The Life Of Jim Bishpp". I had no intention of embarrassing him with the insistence on getting the true story of the burning of the autopsy draft in the show. It was simply that he had needlessly assaulted my integrity and that of my information. Under the pressure of such a show, this was a red flag. I should not have embarrassed your me, and I had no intention. I didn't even realize it when it happened. However, this particular thing is now assuming a disproportionate importance, both here and abroad. I found some clippings from England waiting upon my return. Should the pictures and Xrays be made public, they cannot today be credited. If they should show the wounds exactly as the final autopsy report accounts for them, it would still not substantiate the Report, which is in both its medical and all other aspects entirely wrong. This wrong emphasis does not take into account the impossibility of a single bullet remaining undeformed and unruled through such a career. And it ignores all the rest that is so enormously important.

I mentioned to Paul my desire to have or see a copy of a Wolper film. They bought it from some people in Dallas going under the name DCA. It is the 8 mm versions, with any film that might have been edited out, in which I have an interest. Paul said it would have to come from the west coast. If I should or must request it personally, will you please tell me who to address and where. I am quite willing to examine it in your studios or those of WTTG. I think it is called Kennedy's Last Hour.

Messrs. Kaporis and Connally made reference to some public-relations plans you have. Please depend on me for whatever you have in mind. The only arrangement I now have that it would be awkward to break is a speech to a synogogue on the 20th.

You have an unenviable job in editing the tape. I hope I have made it no worse than it had to be. I am sorry I am not more accessible, but if you have any questions of fact or fidelity of interpretation, please do phone me. In the future, if you feel you can trust me, I shall be glad to counsel you on ~~which~~ ^{what} you may be negaged. Believe me, this is a genuine offer. I want this thing ~~was~~ ^{clean} only. I will not pull stunts on you, and as it is given unto man to be honest, I will be with you. It is not that I am the only honest man; it is that I know more of the fact and the evidence. With regard to what I said about Lane, recall that in my book I defended him, and I am alone to have done so. Rankin and Warren abused him.

Your window footage will give the wrong effect, in part, for it was without fidelity. It was gimmicky. It made the impossible seem possible in what amounts to an unnecessary p.r. effort to show Brennan a liar. There were no boxes, the real thing that made the shots as represented a seeming impossibility.

Again, my thanks and my apologies. I am in your debt. More, I think our country is. Let me know if there is anything I can do.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

My expenses were 550 miles @ 8¢, \$44.00. Tolls, \$8.10. Total \$52.10, Didn't use car in city this time.