

10/10/65

Mr. James E. Clayton
 Assistant Managing Editor
 The Washington Post
 1515 L St., nw
 Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Clayton,

We have been wrestling the same chimera.

Your review of the Kaplan-Waltz book is excellent; your suspicions are correct. I would have liked the shortening of a single sentence, however, not because the idea is wrong but because it implies a limitation I regret.

"One wonders whether Jack Ruby actually received justice from the jury that sentenced him to death." Of course, one does so wonder, especially after reading your review. But I would like you to ponder the question without reference to the jury. Did Ruby receive justice? In fact, was he framed? A crazy question, perhaps, if asked about history's most witnessed murder. As you know, the question was not whether Ruby killed Oswald. Could he be convicted? Could the requirements of the law be satisfied?

I believe his conviction was possible only because the requirements of the law could be met only by perjurious testimony. The man who gave that testimony is my evidence that the Warren Commission's assistant counsel accused him of just such perjury. The full Commission saw fit to ignore this, as they did so many things. If Larry Stern had been farther through my book than when I spoke to him Friday I'd say you could get the answer from him.

In the entire Oswald matter the system of justice is on trial. I addressed it in a different way, allowing the reader to reach his own conclusions. I would like to be able to discuss this entire thing with you soon. And I'd like to borrow your copy of "The Trial of Jack Ruby". I have read Balli's book. I have written him without answer. He is, I think, if not a faker at least a poseur. The tears he sheds for Ruby come from onions.

I'll be around this coming week but at least the first part of the week of the 18th. I expect to be in New York.

While I am anxious for Stern to finish my book as soon as possible, sooner that he will I would now also like you to read chapters seven and eight. You might then conclude that Ruby was not alone on trial. We all are.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg