

Editor, Washington Post
1150 15 St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20005

4/25/77

Dear Editor,

Your editorial "Is Walter Fauntroy a CIA Agent" understates in its justified ridicule of the assassins committee. But it fails to face the media responsibility for the existence of these Keystone Kops who have made low farce of high tragedy.

For more than a decade significant fact of these great tragedies was not news but every leak was news if it was from an official source.

Significant evidence once suppressed and brought to light was not reported. But every sympathetic book was reviewed.

The void filled by an odd bag of nuts, ripoff artists and commercializers was created by the major media. By abdication the major media is responsible for all the wild belief that is now a national state of mind. The paranoia of this committee is today's Exhibit 1.

In this sense, by having failed to adhere to traditional journalistic concepts, all the media have been the agents of those executive agencies that do have secrets to hide.

In this sense also the committee, which has yet to come into any contact with reality, is their agent.

What is worse, its irrationalities tend to exculpate those agencies so much in need of reform and cleansing.

Now we have the spectacle of the House of Representatives keyed into a six-figure commercialization of the King assassination, thanks to Mr. Fauntroy. With it the entire investigation is locked into what as best is failure and in fact is obscene, a new and profitable mythology that the FBI assassinated Dr. King. Without any investigation these Congressional nuts went for a baseless fabrication and after seven months still believe it.

The Fauntroy who sold this new national trauma is the same one who was silent when Dr. King was killed, the same one who refused then to respond to repeated calls. Now he exculpates the killers in his mad chase of ghosts, spooks and personal attention,

Unfortunately, he is not alone among those once close to both martyrs.

After all these months, with all that money to spend and so large a staff this committee has done nothing but repeat the most irrelevant and the most irrational of the nut notions that have ripped off the national mind, without forgetting the nation's pockets of lecture circuits and formula books. Not one word of fact or substance has come from it. Whatever the explanation, this is a shameful abuse of the nation's trust and a wretched exploitation of the nation's agony.

Now if any one of these solons or any combination of them want to dispute these charges I'll look forward to meeting them, with or without the backstopping of their staff, in any public forum. With their reports as text.

Beginning with Mr. Fauntroy there is not one who will face fact or the exposure of all their supposed secrets as non-secret and non-factual even where their might be relevance.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg