

4/29/75

Dr. Cyril Wecht
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Dear Cyril,

From what I've heard of what went on at NYU over the weekend you are among the number who are fortunate that I had pneumonia and pleurisy. I made the press conference with a fever of 102° but that took so much out of me no more was possible.

I left you out of the speech. That was a mistake I may never make again. You not I will make that decision. I was not looking for vengeance or fights. I was hoping to be able to begin the end of this utterly sick mixture of ego-tripping, self-promoting, rabid insanity and plain ignorance and stupidity that daily becomes a more serious problem for those of us who have no malpractice businesses to promote, law practises to advertise, college appearances to be attracted and paid for or other personal ambitions crying out for satisfaction. It was, of course, naive to believe that any of so many sinners is capable of repentance. I have had enough reports from enough different people. I know enough about who said what. And I will not be this physically weak for long.

Nonetheless, you did brighten my day. In the mail was Roy McHugh's Pittsburgh Press interview with you published 4/25 and headed "Wecht Finding Allies In Call For New JFK Probe." (This tells me that you were armed, informed and prepared and loudly demanding this new probe prior to 2/15/65 when it was the conclusion of the first book on the subject, Whitewash. Gosh, you sure did your great work early!)

The lead begins entertainingly and with what I assume for you is modesty:

"The bandwagon is getting a little crowded. Cyril Wecht has been on it right from the start. He never did believe what the Warren Commission said about John F. Kennedy's assassination..."

Well, I suppose there are those who can consider skepticism a substitute for work and that this skepticism was unique with them. But if disbelief makes a bandwagon that others join is there a limit to the world's personal "bandwagons"? Or credentials?

I guess this means that those serious types like Sylvia and I just jumped on your personal bandwagon. So kind of you to accept us!

This interview is a jewel too precious to expose fully to light, so I'll let beams fall on a few facets only.

"Meanwhile, under an amendment to the Freedom of Information Act private individuals are filing lawsuits that could force the release of Warren Commission materials the government has been sitting on for years. (Strange he doesn't name you as one. And let me tell you a big secret: the amendment is not what gives private individuals this right. It was in the original law.) Suddenly its the thing to do. The bandwagon is getting a little crowded and Cyril Wecht would like to take tickets."

Unassuming man! Why have you kept it so secret that you have filed all these FOI suits? Why do you use your amazing powers to prevent the law books from reporting them? Praise the Lord (Cyril) and Let the People Know! I feel so ashamed! I've filed only five, aside from those I've taken to the point of filing and then didn't have to because someone else blinked. How puny my efforts. Now I can really understand why when you had promised to be an expert witness for me you begged off saying you were too busy making money. It wasn't that at all. It is that my efforts were so insignificant. Especially compared with those that are with such consummate grace kept so secret. (Except from the local yokels, that is.)

So I'm crowding you, huh? In what form would you prefer my apology? Blood is

too common for one who lives off of that of others. Maybe another talk show? Or another conference when my abject apologies will not be dimmed by physical weakness? Do let me know.

"A few of the wild conspiracy theories dismay him (meaning you)." That I'm glad to hear. But instead of the no-real-Oswald theory why not select the end product of all that secret autopsy evidence: the Cubans did it? Remember that one? It was attributed to a famous forensic pathologist (which eliminate Lattimer) who had actually seen this secret stuff. After careful backgrounds by the Smiths, Liftons et al. For wildness, in my simple countryman's taste, there is nothing quite like seeing not only a Cuban but a very special kind of Cuban in the X-rays of a corpse.

"All this stuff is so harmful because it sets up beautiful [does this mean non-anti-Castro Cuban?] for the Warren Commission apologists and defenders to knock down," he says.

Whatta brain (aka "Gimme that brain!")! Not that you want get it now. You'll get and you'll see. This kind of intellectual brilliance is too much above the limitations of a simple countryman. I am so simple-minded I would have thought that better fitting this description is finding in a picture what an X-ray did not show, a bullet 3/4" in diameter and perfectly rectangular in shape, completely undeformed and partially impotent, so lazy it just went to sleep in a head. I have not heard much of that very special bullet that can hide itself from X-rays in quite some time but it made a real impression on me and is one of the countless causes of my alertness to "All this farout stuff."

"Declassified just a few months ago, a letter to the Warren Commission from J. Edgar Hoover discloses the existence of a previously unmentioned neutron analysis [sic] performed on the assassination fragments [also sic]."

Now this discombobulated me much. Not only had I written about this four or more years ago, in a part of an unprinted book you did not see, but just today, before the mail, in the course of retrieving other data - believe me, Cyril, I have ~~NUWE~~ I can retrieve - for Jim Lesar's use in court I found a 1969 memo on precisely this. Can a simple countryman get so befuddled that not less than six years ago he was writing about what was "declassified just a few months ago"? I am much too simple to be clairvoyant. So I am left with a perplexing mystery, how six years ago I could have known about what was just declassified?

This so upsets me and makes me worry about evil spirits, ~~next~~ not just ordinary pains and fevers, having taken possession of me that I will not attempt full direct quotation of what follows and inspired. It says that only something called "the magic bullet theory" alone confirms or destroys the "single-assassin theory."

We simple-minded countrymen and our faith in something once called "evidence" and longer called "fact." We are just plain lost.

"They [Meaning numerous (emph. added) others] think they are on the verge. (This means of getting the NAA.) Clarence Kelley Hoover's successor as head of the FBI, has informed Wecht [unique you!] it will ^{soon} be available. ~~XXXX~~ 'Hopefully, I'm first on the list,' says Wecht."

Well, by golly! indeed you should be. If you filed CA 2301-70 and CA 0026-75.

But if you didn't, should you really be? In or out of Pittsburgh, in or out of promotions and publicity?

Can these be two of that multitude of suits you filed and kept secret from all the court decisions and law books? Were it not for these two illnesses I'd swear that I filed both, and that I took 2301-70 all the way to the Supreme Court, and that the Congressional Record for last May 30 says this is the suit that primarily caused the amending of the law (that same amendment that has us all on your back) and the overriding of Ford's veto. Shows what fever, of which there are many kinds, can do to one.

All these completely selfless, completely secret FOI suits of yours no doubt explain the complete silence, the lack of even acknowledgement, when Jim Lesar, for CA0026-75, wrote and asked about this newest NAA stuff. Naturally the entirely unselfish have to keep such things secret. Else how can they remain purely unselfish? Now I know why Bob Smith, your present employee and his former associate/friend, remained silent. **But why and selflessness. How the world need such nobility, such selflessness!**

I would have been mortal not noble had I been there when you told that audience that out of fear of you the government just crumbled and mailed you the Memorandum of Transfer. I would have been particularly moral because I not you have been fighting for this since 1968 and even had it given to me only to be intercepted and denied, years ago. I would have been mortal also because it is I, not you, who took this to where the one remaining step was my filing of a complaint. Practically by return mail, once I filed that last paper, we got this. Thereafter all others who had asked for it were entitled to it. ("Suddenly it's the thing to do" and "Hopefully I'm first on the list," says Wecht.) aka "Bandwagon.")

There was some pretty raunchy stuff there for such eminent and authentic experts, from you who had Evelyn Lincoln Hobby Kennedy's secretary to Mark who had the Executive Session transcript of 1/27/64 the commission's first. (And how cleverly he sought to take credit for that, too. Discovering sex and inventing the wheel is got enough for him, either.)

The press was at those meetings. Except for ridicule they found nothing to say, including those who interviewed you. Now if I had been there and you had pulled the same stuff - doubtful because I'd have been second - I'd have flailed your ass into many papers and medical journals. This is the countryman in me breaking through. It is the real me when I'm not ill, even if for so long I have been publicly silent about so much. If you have the slightest doubt book us both on some Pittsburgh talk show for the moment the doctor says I can travel. I'll know Friday, meaning either way.

You don't know me if you think I don't have records. Including of your complete inability to understand the panel report when I mailed it to you from New Orleans and then had to explain it to you when you were in Las Vegas. If this for openers and seeing revanchist Cubans in JFK's X-rays is not enough, you'll get more! Including your explanation in writing about why it would cost you too much money to be the expert witness you had promised, also in writing, to be in one of those non-secret FOI suits you did not file as part of your personal and unique "bandwagon." (I must ask Sylvia if she bought a ticket.)

What I've promised is nothing to what I'll do if you fuck up what I've already done with the spectro and NAA tests. It is an exceedingly delicate situation and the government would at this juncture just love some self-seeker to mess in with a little cheap personal publicity. Neither you nor anyone else will have to get it through Kelley's goodness of heart. I'm giving it all away and I've already made the arrangements. But whatever the cost I simply will not tolerate another of these egotrips of others or your endless self- and malpractice promotions. It is hairy, you don't know enough despite your academic credentials to recognize whores in a bordello and it is too important for any meddling by the self-important. There is a calendar hearing Friday. That cannot be the end. But I emphasize again the extreme delicacy of this situation and with it the limitless effort to which I will go if you or any other in any way no matter how minor does any of this insanes self-promoting with it and even runs the risk of endangering what I have, ^{worked} so hard on for so many years-10 in less than a month. The reason is not that I and I alone have done this work, more than it would take to write several books. Nor is it that you were too god damned busy making money and trying to make yourself famous on the cheap to the extent that you never even sent me the pages I asked for from standard texts on these tests. Boy has you labored! The reason is because I want all of this out and this is the only chance. The law was rewritten around my suit that you even took elliptical credit for in your recent interview. I am in a position in

which none of us, me included, will ever be again. If you ever did any work except for pay, if you had the remotest notion of the legislative history, especially the conference report, you'd know exactly why, ^{it} was soon as Jim filed for me, the first thing the first possible morning, the Attorney General invited us to a conference with the FBI. We have been dealing since then.

If you had been anything as respectable as a common whore I'd have had you in on this and more with real meaning, not the gibberish you have been ripping people off with. But you are too overwhelmed with your own omniscience and self-importance to have the remotest notion of your own limitations, including understanding. You'd have had legitimate claim to fame, not the tawdry ignorance and egregious error of which you are so boastful.

I have been working with several elements of the major media on this. While there is never any forecasting of what editors and owners will do, or network executives, there is enough knowledge of the realities so that if you mess in even a trifle you run the risk, without my effort (of which I assure you) of damaging yourself.

I have been publicly silent for years because it was impossible to do anything because of all you partly-informed, uninformed and overly-loud self-seekers. The situation is changed now. It also is impossible for me to print more. Lesar borrowed the money to pay the printer for Whitewash IV. Thus in New York I gave away what could have been the center of an important book from my files. And thus I've already arranged to give this away. You know how I feel about Nichols, but Lesar has already promised him xeroxes on my suggestion. Not that this is enough to keep Nichols from fucking up, but it is a measure of my intentions.

Don't confuse my election of silence as a measure of what I am willing and able to do. The CBS station in New York used excerpts from my press conference hourly for the 24 hours after it and intermittently over the succeeding days. They didn't only repeat, they worked their tapes over and used new items regularly. To my knowledge they alone (and all the net stations and major independents used it) used this one two-hour conference for six successive days. Within my experience and those now in the media who have talked to me this is without precedent. If I can last two hours with pneumonia and pleurisy and be this effective, imagine what I can do with the inspiration of your unscrupulousness of the past even if you don't give me more inspiration now!

In your personal interest and in the common interest I hope you will keep your overweening ambition and lust for attention based on the work of others in check at least until this is completed. When I see interviews like this- and countless similar ones have been sent me, including by disgusted reporter friends - I wonder can you really be rational and only this unscrupulous and self-important. If you are not rational you may not be able to control yourself. If you know where your personal interest lies you will not want the exposure I guarantee you if you meddle into this in any way and jeopardize the considerable success Jim and I have already achieved and what remains virtually certain if left alone.

Aside from this, the government apparently wants least of all for any suit by me to become precedent with the legislative history I have cited. I get to the point of filing and they dish up what they have, denying me for years. This alone is how you got the memo of transfer, as you will anything else I have asked for and get. It is automatic. Those things you have not asked for you will not get. It is already hundreds of pages.

You will, I hope, live long enough for the damage you have already done to prey on any conscience you may have without displaying it.

Now you have pulled the greatest one with that "Gimme that brain!" battlecry. You know, of course, that the brain will go to others, not you. You know, of course, that you will be able to prove it is the right one and not a substitute. You know all, All one, do is ask you if one does not have copies, records of your boastings which are so

sickening and so separated from fact so often. So you certainly know in advance before you pull this new stunt that the hemisphere, real or substituted, will hold exactly the evidence you conjecture and suggest in so many public boasts and challenges.

But suppose, just suppose, that whatever hemisphere is produced does not hold this kind of evidence? What then? What will you have done to all the work that has been done of which you are not part? Of which you know nothing?

You are right, of course, to speak as you do of the insanities with those non-"tramp" pictures. But what makes this caper of yours potentially less harmful? Especially with the long and clear record of finks always having first access to the pathological material?

Anyone who knows the real evidence that is beyond question knows that the very best that can be said for what you have been crying for is that it is needlessly risky and much less promising than almost anything else those who really know would want.

For your information, the brain has never been "missing." What has been missing is the consequence of your cheap publicity course, your knowledge and understanding have been missing. You did no real work, had no real understanding, got swept away with your own ambition and boasting, and merely assumed that everyone was as ignorant as you were and remain.

From this you might begin to see that there may yet in this be risk to you, the most serious jeopardy to your reputation. And, of course, malpractice business. If I were a lawyer opposed to you I could ruin you in every case in which you appear. I do not mean this as a threat and it is not a threat. I have nothing like this in mind. I'm merely trying to sober you up, to get your feet where they belong, out of your big mouth. But it is real, as the few of many samples I've given you ought tell you. A 3/4" bullet in a head and it doesn't show in X-rays that do show revanchist Cubans!

Fighting and threats do not interest me. Success does. All the time the cheap-skates like you were exploiting and doing no real work a few of us were working. That is what interests me, nothing else. Accomplishment, not fees and cheap publicity. But the time has come when success and the kind of incredible self-seeking that I exposed only modestly in the prepared speech can't coexist. I do hope you will come to understand that the situation has changed radically and that you can be hurt by it. Hurting you also is not my intention. I did not mention you in the speech, easily and justifiably as I could have. I did have with me a couple of your letters and they alone would have ruined you with the audiences you milk. I hope I never have occasion to use the combination of your promise to be an expert witness and your subsequent refusal because it would cost you money you were making so fast you couldn't even lap/dip all that was in front of you. But if I have to fight, please understand that all my energy will return again and I will use it.

In your own interest I also hope you will understand what can happen to you if you are ever called as a witness in any investigation. All those crazy statements that promoted you and enticed business can be your ruin. There will be no investigation that does not have an anxious minority. If it develops only part of what I have - and they will have in addition to investigators the full facilities of the Library of Congress - you will be done.

It is chicken-roosting time. You'll be wise to lock your own hen house and save the chickens there are.

I'm truly saddened that a man of your ability has been a great liability instead of an asset. We can't undo the past, any of us. But I remind you of Santayana's wisdom and encourage you not to want to relive it.

Although you would not do such simple things as send me pages from standard texts and Bob did not even respond to Jim's simple inquiry when Jim was looking for anything we might not have had when he was drafting the complaint, I am going to make what I get public. Kelley may or may not send you all. You can ask Jim for copies. We know what is still withheld. I doubt you can. For your sake and that of all, I hope you can restrain yourself.