

11/27/90

Dr. Cyril Wecht
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1200 Centre Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15219

Dear Cyril,

Thanks for your letter of the 16th. My wife and I had talked it over and we came to the same conclusion you did, that there isn't much we can do. I'm waiting for the claim for attorneys' fees to hit me.

There is something else I think you should know but I'd rather you keep it to yourself because I don't take controversy as I once did.

Some months ago Greenwood Press, a supposedly scholarly publisher, asked Dave Wrono and me to read and offer opinion and comments on Phil Melanson's manuscript of a book he titled "Spy Saga" on Oswald and the intelligence connections Melanson attributes to him. I'd read Melanson's "The Murkin Conspiracy," about the King assassination, and it is about as dishonest, incompetent and often silly and hurtful book as I could then recall, on any subject. But "Spy Saga" was worse, much worse. So very bad that I decided to do a complete job of commenting on it. I'm sure the publisher was surprised to get 80-some pages of this single spacing. And I gave them my permission to give it to Phil and my word that I would respond to any comment he might have. I was sure that not even The National Enquirer would publish it. And I heard nothing from the publisher or from Phil. Dave agreed that it is a terrible book and that is what he reported.

Yesterday he phoned to tell me he'd seen it in a bookstore so I checked and found one here and got it. I did that only on the chance that I might be asked about it. The text is only about 160 pages. I'm not going to read it but I did check the index on ^{one} ~~some~~ of the worst things he'd gone into extensively, the fiction that Jules Ricco Simble was a CIA agent. I'd sent Greenwood the proof that he wasn't. So, there is no mention of him in the index. But the book is so incredibly bad that it is not possible to change its character with editing to remove or change all the serious flaws I found in it.

As I'm sure you'll agree, this kind of stuff further destroys the credibility of all legitimate criticism. As you may not know, the agencies distribute detailed memos on these things and thereby persuade those they want to persuade that it and all other criticisms are baseless or worse. I can't tell you how many of such memos I've seen.

On a subject I know you are interested in, the Ricky White concoctions, I was surprised to get a visit from two of the soldier-of-fortune types you may have heard of, Gerry Patrick Hemming and Ray Hargraves. Unless they lied they are working for Bud in his continuing efforts to make up into down and White's stupid stuff appear to be factual. I regret that our friend, so fine and wise a human in all other areas, is rabidly insane on this and nothing persuades him.

He also should have learned years ago that when it is not entirely strange to him Hemming is remarkably economical with the truth. I've forgotten what he served seven years in jail for. Of Hargraves' criminal record I do recall that he served time for bombing an SDS office in Southern California in 1963 and that he was accused of killing one of the other training at Mo Name Key for an invasion of Cuba.

White is still going around getting attention. About two weeks ago a San Francisco radio station phoned me to ask me about his story before he and others were to be aired.

Supposedly Bud and his Dallas center got \$80,000 from a movie/documentary producer name Ho to act as their technical advisers. After the Texas papers pretty well exposed White Ho told one of them that it would not necessarily be White's story but he was interested in the JFK assassination. These "experts" he has are the kind of investigators who could not find public hair in an overworked and undercleaned whorehouse at rush hour!

Best wishes, Harold Weisberg

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LEGAL MEDICINE

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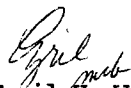
Mr. Harold Weisberg
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Dear Harold:

I was sorry to learn that the appellate court denied your motion. I doubt very much that there is anything further you can do. However, you will have to check this out with a Maryland attorney who is knowledgeable regarding appeal procedures in your jurisdiction.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,


Cyril H. Wecht, M.D., J.D.

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