

5/16/69

Dear Cyril,

As best we can, those helping and I will carry forward what I reported to you, as it relates to you and as it does not. When there is something significant, I will let you know. I think you should also know that apparently Fisher has been poisoning the official wells. In itself, I think this makes him more a participant than a partisan, puts him in a different category.

I will be making an addition to the book, whether or not I can get it printed, aside from the testimony excerpting which is already prepared (for the s.m. only). At that time I think it will be appropriate for me to write Fisher a letter I will include. This will consist of questions and the statement I intend publication. I will also publish his answer and, if he fails to respond, the fact of it. Looking toward that day, I quote from your letter of 5/15:

"...I find it difficult to divorce his conclusions from the fact that he has frequently received Federal grants in the past and he is actively seeking much larger sums at the present time..."

I concur in the first part and would like to prove the second. How can this be done? Is there a publicly-available source or sources? You may recall I said his institution was the beneficiary of such largess in the book. I'd love to include a table of what it got and one of what he also got. I think it a vital part of the story and essential for an understanding of his position, his work, and the inherent corruption. Have you any means of getting this data?

Of course, I will not quote you on anything without your approval. I have now what I cannot use because I cannot disclose the source. But these things do help establish fact if sources are, and in this case is the reality, ~~xxxx~~ dependable. Also, at some time I may be face to face with some of the people he has influenced and this data would be fine gilding.

Can you in any way amplify your generality on what he did on cadavers? You realize this is contrary to the content of the report, aside from being suppressed in it and entirely inconsistent with the purposes as stated by either the Attorney General or the panel. If he did work on cadavers, that in itself is significant. But firing bullets into them?

I disagree with your comment "Things look bleak for the immediate future." If you refer to the national situation and its possible relationship, I agree. However, the effect of the quieting down is to shake out those commercializers who have been a liability, to reduce or entirely eliminate the utterly irresponsible things our side has said and done. Those remaining are sincere and unselfish and of undiminished dedication. My own work and that of those with whom I am in contact is advancing. We have the most significant and irrefutable evidence or the most sensational character. In this period of quiet we have a chance to continue the work without the unfortunate diversions. I am quite content with the present situation except as it mitigates against publication. I do think we have the possibility for major breakthroughs and I think much of it will hinge on my getting my work on paper and the possibilities of reaching the right people with it. If and when you are here, I'll be able to give you an inkling of what I mean and have.

Best regards,

Harold Weisberg

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FORENSIC PATHOLOGY  
LEGAL MEDICINE

15 May 1969

Mr. Harold Weisberg  
Cog d'Or Press  
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Frederick, Maryland

Dear Harold:


Just a note to thank you for the information contained in your letter of 1 May 1969. You may be assured that I will not breach your confidence. I have been aware from other sources, as well as from my personal experience at the February Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences in Chicago, that Russell Fisher has been talking against me. Of course, he does this in a very clever and subtle way when dealing with mutual friends. I am sure he is far less discreet when talking to people who do not know me personally.

Fisher did remark to me that he had done some work with cadavers pursuant to his evaluation and review of the WCR. I believe this consisted of firing bullets into several bodies. I do not know exactly how many, where or when. Obviously his report hinged on many issues, and I find it difficult to divorce his conclusions from the fact that he has frequently received Federal Grants in the past and he is actively seeking much larger sums at the present time and will continue to do so in the future.

Things look rather bleak for the future. Do you have any reason to believe we can make any kind of breakthrough?

With kindest regards.

Sincerely,

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

CHW/njs