

8/8/67

Mrs. Barbara K. Diggs
3400 Pinewood Ave.,
Baltimore, Md. 21206

Dear Mrs. Diggs,

If there is anything I can do to help a worthwhile endeavor like yours I want to do it. So, in general, I can say that I am flattered by your letter and more than willing to speak for your group.

At the same time I must also say that I cannot, now, say that I can keep an October 30 date if I make it today. In fairness to you, I think I should explain this, for a number of factors and problems each can prevent it.

First, we are but two people, and we have been past the point of exhaustion for some time. Despite this, our work continues. You refer to a single book, my first. I have published three and have completed a fourth, soon to be published. At the moment I am deciding whether the next, already researched, will be one or two books. What will then follow is researched and a third written, and the one I hope that can be my last on this unhappy subject, the one most of all I want to write, will follow. It is my hope and earnest desire to have all but the last done this year, for I believe the national interest requires the availability of the information and our personal interest requires a slackening of the pace.

Within weeks Parallax Publishing Co., a small publisher, will bring out my book on the New Orleans aspects of the case. What is transpiring there seems from my work. My agreement with Parallax requires that I promote the book. It is our hope that by then the current boycott will have eased and I will be able to go around the country to draw attention to the book. My own interest urgently requires this, for our financial situation is other than the generously-reported slanders would lead you to believe. We are in debt, not wealthy from my work.

So, for now, please accept my declaration of willingness not only to help in your very worthwhile work if I can do that but also to speak to any group of concerned Americans on this subject. As the first step, can you let me know the latest date you can schedule the program for that meeting and still promote it as you desire? By that date, I should be able to be specific. In fact, at that pleasant time of the year a drive to Baltimore and a decent meal should be a treat for both of us, for we will also by then have moved into a new home. We will then be about an hour from Route 40 and the beltway.

If this subject is not too controversial (I began by believing the truth about the murder of a President could not be controversial), we can bring a supply of the books with us and you can sell them, making the bookstore profit, which should help you about \$2.00 worth on each book and help us also. Various civic groups I have addressed do this. Except for the discount, which I do give, it is a normal practice. But nothing is normal on this subject.

Also, what would the size of the meeting and the meeting place be? I have some visuals, photo slides and enlargements, that I can bring. The former is better for ~~small~~ groups. I have turned down several requests to speak in Baltimore, so I imagine if yours is a general-admission meeting, the group can be larger than your

your own membership. The editorial policy of the Sun is unfavorable to me, but several radio and TV stations would likely mention it. I think John Sterling would on each of his programs (have you ever spoken to his producer, Norman ~~Part~~ Ross, or his assistant producer, Miss ^{Wick} Davis, at Channel 13 about your organization:).

Although the effort to suppress continues strong, interest is high. The New York Times greeted PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH: SUPPRESSED KENNEDY ASSASSINATION PICTURES, with 44 column inches as news. There has been no other mention of the book, aside from radio. It devoted about a third of a page to the second book, WHITEWASH II: THE FBI-SECRET SERVICE COVERUP.

So, I gladly accept your invitation, reserving only agreement on the date to see if it can be possible without conflict with other things I must do where the audience will be larger, my own work schedule, which I cannot predict that far in advance, and my physical capacity, for I am now very, very tired.

If there is much interest among your members in my books and they would like copies before then, we will still treat you like a bookstore. The discounts are a third on three or four copies and 40% on five or more, mailed to the same address at the same time, postage and insurance added. The first two are available in Dell reprints.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Weisberg



THE GUILD FOR INFANT SURVIVAL, INC. • 6822 Brompton Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21207

Telephone: WI. 4-2502
(area code 301)

"To Keep Each New Life Living"

DOWNTOWN OFFICE:
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August 3, 1967

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Mr. Hal Weisberg
Coq D'or Farm
Hyattsville, Maryland

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

You are cordially invited to be our guest speaker at a forthcoming general membership meeting of the Guild for Infant Survival, Inc., a non-profit, non-sectarian, voluntary, charitable organization here in Baltimore.

The Guild for Infant Survival is deeply concerned with the tragic phenomenon of sudden unexpected infant deaths, or "crib deaths". It was formed in 1964 by persons dedicated to solving the baffling mystery for which no cause, no treatment, no cure are known, yet which takes the lives of as many as 25,000 normal, healthy babies each year in the United States alone.

The Guild supports and encourages specific medical research projects into sudden infant death. We are fortunate in being able to support the work of Maryland's renowned Chief Medical Examiner, Dr. Russell S. Fisher. When his new headquarters building is completed in the near future, Dr. Fisher will devote full-time space and manpower to this problem. Full details about the Guild are enclosed.

Because the general public is unaware of the loss of these precious lives, another of our tasks is to arouse strong public interest in the seriousness and scope of this problem. To do this, we wish to make our meetings as impressive and interesting as possible. This is how you can help us.

Dedicated to Solving the Mystery of 25,000 Sudden Infant Deaths A Year through Personal Information, Public Education, and Medical Research

We shall be delighted to have you join us on the evening of Monday, October 30, 1967 at 9:30 PM. Should you find this inconvenient, an alternate date can be arranged. We shall be privileged to have you discuss your book "Whitewash."

By accepting our invitation, you will give new hope, new help, NEW LIFE to thousands of babies all over the world! We look forward to your affirmative reply and to greeting you at our meeting.

Sincerely yours,



(Mrs.) Barbara K. Diggs
Chairman, Program Committee
3400 Pinewood Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21206

Enclosure

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT . . .

THE GUILD FOR INFANT SURVIVAL, INC.

The Guild for Infant Survival was formed in November, 1964 to fight, in an organized manner, the tragedy of sudden, unexpected infant deaths, known more familiarly as "crib deaths." The Guild has dedicated itself to solving this baffling medical mystery through personal information, public education, and medical research.

Sudden infant death violently strikes down happy, healthy infants in their first few months of life. It attacks silently and swiftly, without warning, allowing no time for medical attention.

Sudden infant death kills as many as 25,000 babies every year (more than polio ever did) in the United States alone - thousands more around the world. This represents up to 25% of infant deaths from all causes. The United States ranks only 11th among all nations in infant mortality rate; ten other countries have lower rates. Studies by the medical examiner's office in Maryland indicate that 116 infants have been lost in this manner during the first six months of 1966 alone.

Though evidence of sudden infant death dates back to Biblical times, there is still no known cause, no treatment, no prevention, no cure. In fact, it has no scientific medical name. Several theories have been recently advanced, but none has been proven with any degree of success.

Because death comes so suddenly and quickly, and because these babies have had little time to become known outside the immediate family, the general public is unaware that this problem even exists. Nor do these babies linger in a handicapped condition to evoke society's sympathy and help.

The Guild for Infant Survival maintains a complete, up-to-date record concerning sudden infant death and related medical progress as a source of information for families who experience this unfortunate tragedy, and suffer strong feelings of guilt.

Through its publicity and public relations activities, the Guild for Infant Survival actively seeks to bring the scope and seriousness of the sudden infant death problem to full public attention in order that aroused public opinion may accelerate medical interest, efforts, and facilities toward the solution and cure of sudden infant deaths.

Through its fund-raising functions, the Guild for Infant Survival enthusiastically supports specific medical research into sudden infant death. The Guild particularly endorses and supports the efforts of Dr. Russell S. Fisher, Maryland's Chief Medical Examiner, to research the sudden infant death problem in his new medical examiner's headquarters building here in Baltimore, due to start construction in a few months.

The Guild for Infant Survival is a non-profit, non-sectarian, charitable organization, incorporated under the laws of the State of Maryland, and its monthly meetings are open to the general public. Memberships are invited at all times, at \$5.00 per year per family. Completing its second year, the Guild has already grown to more than 150 paid family members. All Guild work is performed voluntarily; there are no paid workers, promoters, representatives or officials.

"Keep Each New Life Living!" The Guild for Infant Survival welcomes your support, financially and actively. For more details, or for membership, write to: The Guild for Infant Survival, 6822 Brompton Road, Baltimore, Md. 21207, or telephone WI 4-2502. (Downtown office at 836 Park Avenue, Baltimore, Md. 21201, Phone, LE 9-0910.)

C O P Y

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MARYLAND MEDICAL-LEGAL FOUNDATION, INC.
700 FLEET STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202

October 12, 1965

Mr. Saul Goldberg, President
Guild for Infant Survival, Inc.
6822 Brompton Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21207

Dear Mr. Goldberg:

I have been privileged to observe the organization and development of the Guild for Infant Survival since its founding. I certainly wish to congratulate the members on their interest in this important public health problem.

I have been interested in the problem for the twenty years I have spent in medical-legal work, since it is one of the most distressing situations in the whole of the medical practice. Our experiences in Maryland indicate that approximately 1% of all deaths fall in this category. This would amount to over 10,000 deaths per year in the United States. Other jurisdictions in the country apparently show a much higher occurrence of sudden infant death so that some estimates indicate the problem may involve as many as 25,000 deaths per year. Our inability to accurately circumscribe the problem is an indication of the inadequacy of our research to date.

The typical "crib death" or sudden infant death, as we prefer to classify them, involves a healthy infant who is either found dead with no history of illness or at most there is a history of a minor respiratory infection in the infant or in some member of the infant's family or contacts. Post-mortem examination, using the skills and techniques ordinarily available to trained pathologists, usually discloses some minor evidence of disease in one-half to two-thirds of the cases and nothing at all in the remainder. Even in those where evidence of infection is present, the findings are by no means adequate to explain the death. Many theories have been offered but none stand the test of careful scrutiny. Adequate research to evaluate most of them is still waiting to be done.

When one considers the tremendous loss to the family and to our country resulting from untimely deaths of these infants, it is immediately apparent that the problem is of greater magnitude than many of the popular medical disease conquests foremost in the public eye today. For example, poliomyelitis was never as great a problem at its worst as the sudden infant death problem is today. It is my belief that with adequate support from private and public health agencies and adequate evidence to stimulate the interest of research minded medical men, the secrets of this enigma can be bared in the next decade or two.

I regard the Guild for Infant Survival and organizations similar to it as important agencies in stimulating the needed public support in this field.

Very truly yours,
/s/ Russell S. Fisher
Russell S. Fisher, M.D.
Chief Examiner, State of Maryland

RSF:hw