

1/21/67

Dear Emmy,

Although I regret he found some of my writing "abominable", I am happy that Thomas M. Rettew took the time to read and understand WHITEWASH II. This is something that cannot be said of some of the major reviewers, who wrote without having understood, without really having read.

Because of your general interest in books and your considerable interest in history I'm telling you about WHITEWASH III: THE ARCHIVE. There is a little slip in WHITEWASH II announcing it. We get orders for it daily, yet it is not written! My continuing researches and the increasing public appearances have me behind schedule on it. Surprisingly enough, we never miss a day with orders for it, and they've been as high as 25 per day. There will be ~~xxxx~~ four or five written chapters and a little commentary, but all I've said of this book is that it will reproduce by facsimile several hundred pages from the archive, untouched original documents. Pete Kihss said six weeks ago this may be the most exciting of the three. I hope he is right. But is it not interesting that people have such a considerable interest in such an unorthodox book?

With any kind of luck you may have a "Local Man's Best Seller" story. In the first month the Dell edition of WHITEWASH made every one of their sales lists in the top ten without a single ad having been placed and without their having done any promotional work (I did considerable). It was in a single month their sixth best-selling title. I understand this has never happened before, and all I now worry about is the count, which I'm told is the constant worry of all authors, no matter how great and prominent.

Thanks for the integrity and good space of the review. I wish some of the larger and more important papers were as professional and honorable.

By the way, what is the poop on Joe Pyne, who once had a show on a Wilmington station? I taped a radio show for him, and he's asked me to fly back to Hollywood to introduce WHITEWASH III on his TV show (which I could not fit in that trip). When he spoke of his familiarity with the Phil Ledger and their Morning News (low opinion) it suddenly came back to me that he left under some kind of a cloud.

Again, thanks to you and Rettew. If either of you wants a book, or if he wants the first, don't buy them. Let me know.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg



THE NEWS-JOURNAL COMPANY

831 ORANGE STREET
WILMINGTON 99, DELAWARE
OLYMPIA 4-5351

January 17, 1967

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Coq d' Or Farm
Hyattstown, Maryland

Gentlemen:

I am enclosing two copies of the review which
appeared in the January 17 editions of the Wilmington
Morning News Book Corner.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'W. Emerson Wilson'.

W. Emerson Wilson
Book Review Editor
Wilmington Morning News

WEW/1

Enc.

Books in the News

Was Warren Report a whitewash?

By W. EMERSON WILSON

The Warren Commission Report, instead of proving Lee Harvey Oswald guilty of President Kennedy's assassination, has actually shown he alone could not have committed the crime.

This charge is made in a new book by Harold Weisberg of near Hyattstown, Md., entitled "Whitewash: The Report on the Warren Report" (208 pages, privately printed, \$4.95). Weisberg was a reporter on The Morning News in the early 1930s who later became a Senate investigator. His personal investigations during the early days of World War II were widely credited with laying the foundation for the taking over of enemy property and foreign-funds controls.

This book is based on an intensive study of the 27 volumes in the Warren Commission Report. Weisberg charges the "main, if not exclusive effort of the commission" was to validate the FBI report on the crime and not itself to make a report on it.

"In finding Oswald guilty," Weisberg writes, "it (the commission) has found those who assassinated him 'innocent.'" He does not claim to know who actually is guilty but feels that the investigation should be reopened in order to find out.

He also objects strenuously to the decision of the commission to seal their files, which contain more information than that given in the report, for 75 years.

The report consisted of 26 volumes of testimony, charts, reports, police logs, etc., from which the one-volume summary was made. Weisberg claims many of the conclusions arrived at in this summary are fallacious on the grounds of the evidence contained in the other 25 volumes.

Many witnesses told of four shots being fired, and many believed at least some of these shots came from in front of the car. He asks why the report on the autopsy on the President was suppressed, why the testimony of pathologists that the bullet found could not have caused the injuries was also suppressed, and why that bullet was cleaned before being received by the FBI laboratories.

The proof that the spent shells found on the sixth floor of the Depository Building could not have come from the rifle attributed to Oswald is also disregarded, Weisberg says.

He also points to the many discrepancies in the reports of Oswald's movements after the shooting when he traced an irregular course by bus and taxi to his room. This trip would take more time than actually lapsed, Weisberg believes. He also casts doubt on Oswald shooting of Patrolman Tippitt, pointing out

that witnesses say Tippitt and the man believed to be Oswald chatted peacefully before Tippitt was shot. He also doubts that Tippitt had received enough information and description to identify Oswald as the assassin on the basis of the police logs printed in the report. Then why should it take Oswald a half hour to walk to the theater after the shooting, when the theater was only five or six blocks away and he had covered so much territory in such a short time before that?

Weisberg believes that Oswald was actually an anti-Communist, and quotes evidence to that effect received by the commission. Oswald may actually have considered himself a secret agent. Why did the Marine Corps approve his being granted a passport to Russia before he was discharged from the corps, when that discharge was for the specific purpose of caring for his mother?

Marina Oswald lied in order to get her passport into the United States, the evidence shows, and Weisberg claims she repeatedly lied to the commission later as shown by the different stories she told at different times.

The report blames the press indirectly for the murder of Oswald since it caused confusion, but Weisberg insists the murder was entirely due to police negligence. If too many reporters were present the police could have excluded them and used the "pool" system of reporting, he explains.

He also believes the commission did not delve deep enough to find whether Ruby was actually permitted to enter the police station by some policeman.

There are detailed analyses of the significance of the various photographs taken of the assassination and of the different exhibits, such as the gun in which Weisberg questions the findings of the commission.

He also goes into considerable detail about a "false Oswald" reportedly seen by witnesses in places where Oswald could not have been. The commission dismissed these reports as mere imaginings of witnesses, but Weisberg give them some credence.

The book is detailed and sometimes involved, but has won praise from such distinguished correspondents as Alain Clement of the Paris Le Monde and Stephen Barber of the London Daily Telegraph.

Weisberg devotes one chapter to the history of the book in which he reports that it has been read and praised by many publishers who nevertheless declined to publish it. Eventually, he decided to do so himself.

May 1, 1936

SA
Mr. V. Emerson Wilson
News-Journal Co.
Girard and Orange Sts.,
Wilmington, Del.

Dear Emmy,

As I told you when we spoke several weeks ago, it has always been my desire for my book to have a chance to stand on its own feet. Maybe I chopped the feet off at the knees, but here it is. This, of course, is the least desirable form but it had become the only alternative to nothing. The Preface explains.

I am writing these letters in advance, for I have no staff, nor public relations or advertising funds - really, I have nothing but the book, handicapped as it is, and the respect of a number of prominent U.S. and European correspondents who have read it. God! to have the advantages of Don Quixote!

This is not an effort to avoid commercial publication. Rather I hope, with a moderate success, to attract it. Some of the excerpted publishers' letters will indicate the possibility, if the fear is overcome.

Please forgive the adjectives I didn't have time to edit out, the tenses I never got around to untwisting, and concentrate on the subject matter. You do not really get into it until you hit chapter 6, but the rest was, in my opinion, necessary. Most have found even the early chapters interesting. The charts and pictures, save the one so identified, are not covered by copyrights, and that one belongs to the AP. They distributed it to their members, the day after the assassination, if my recollection is correct.

This is all original work. A year ago I calculated that we then had about 7,000 hours in the book, which was finished, save for a few slight recent additions, by mid-February 1935.

I hope you regard it as important and worthwhile, that you will say so out loud, and that despite the unique form (which I hope will make it attractive because of its unusual character) you will say so and Greenwood will want it. We have not as yet arranged any distribution, although a large D.C. bookstore, which is quite excited about it, is going to speak to two distributors. If they will take it, on consignment at the regular discounts, I'll ship promptly. Perhaps the local angle - a boyhood customer - will appeal to them. I'll send them an extra copy for cutting up into a display of the exhibits, if they'd like. In any event, thanks for anything you feel you can do, and I would like your comments.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

5/27/66

Mr. W. Emerson Wilson
The News Journal Co.
Wilmington 99, Del.

Dear Emmy,

Many thanks for your kind note and equally kind review. I had a small order from Greenwood, filled it immediately, and offered a larger supply on consignment. I've had no response.

You are correct in saying the book "is so detailed I found it difficult..."etc. The reasons are not simple. First, I wanted to be as thorough as possible. I ask, as you may recall, for a public airing, and I intended the book to have what would be required for this. And because I knew of the reluctance of the press to consider the subject, I wanted to leave as thorough a record as I could in the space available. Remember, I began without a contract, and that is the size of the book. There is no limit to how large a book or books the subject justifies.

Again, thanks for your willingness and your help. I need all I can get, for the next instalment on the printing bill is due the tenth and I do not now have the money!

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

P.S. Among the European papers, I know it got nice comments in the London Times and Le Monde, the two most respected papers in these countries.

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May 23, 1966

Dear Harold:

Here is a clipping ~~XXXXXX~~ of the review we used on your book in the Morning News on Friday, May 20.

I was much impressed by it, but it is so detailed I found it difficult to give it the review it deserved.

I have talked to Miss Gertrude Kruse, manager of the Greenwood Book Shop and she said she was interested in buying some of the books. I gave her your address and she said she would get in touch with you directly.

kindest regards

W. Emerson Wilson