

6/29/69

Dear George,

If there is anything I could have done to help you that I didn't do, I cannot think what it is. When I had no time I found it. When I was deep in debt I went in deeper. I took hours writing you, trying to help you avoid pitfalls so obvious I am distressed that unassisted you did not and flabbergasted that with assistance you still were determined to fall.

In return, you have failed to keep your word or to do the simple things asked of you. I hope that you have not also done what to me would be worse.

I write to ask the immediate return of the copy of POST MORTEM III sent you two and a half months ago. I have needed it every one of those days. Please wrap it well, protecting it with cardboard, and insure it for \$25.00. You can send it "Special 4th Class Rate-Books", which is only 12¢ for the first pound, 6¢ for each additional pound, and it will get here in about a week or so.

At the same time, I would like you to pay for the books you got. You got a bill with them. If any remain that you do not want to keep on the chance of selling them, please return them. If you'd like to keep any remaining, pay for those you do not return and return the balance whenever it is convenient. Again, please insure them, for we cannot sell damaged books. This, too, is long overdue.

When I accepted your invitation and assurances, I made clear I did this to be helpful and because doing it would provide a means to get out there and bring people up to date on what had been learned and, as you learned when I was there, to warn against what I so well knew lay ahead. There was no possibility of any kind of profit for me. There never has been on any of my trips to California, all of which had this or similar purposes. The peculiar thing is that in those places where the people are best off financially, especially California, the commitments to me have never been kept. My trips to California, on each of which I had advance assurances from people I trusted, have added not less than a thousand dollars to my considerable - to me enormous - indebtedness. Because it falls due in a few days and I cannot meet it, I remind you of your promises. I am aware that there was nothing deliberate on your part and that you also were not making a profit. You did, without nagging from me, subsequently say you were sending me a partial repayment I have never gotten. If you can do anything about this now it would be helpful and welcome.

There is another matter that, while I am engaged in what is not pleasant, I also raise. When I was there, you showed me some of Dave Lifton's slanders. I read them in haste when you promised me copies, told you they were almost without exceptions complete lies and in the exceptions deliberate distortions, and awaited the copies - have not yet received. Since then Dave has been unrelenting in a diligent campaign of a magnitude that surprises me when I consider all the other demands of time on a man who professes dedication to a subject he holds so dear he has abandoned his education to pursue it. It is incredible, being exceeded in this only by the credibility it receives from those who should know better, who should have better sense. While it has disappointed me that so many I have considered friends have been so silent, I have been able to reconstruct much of it from questions concerned people have asked me. In going over my files to offer complete and factual answers (what a way to have to spend time with so much that is to be done!) I find that he has been doing this since the summer of 1966, long before we met and before there was any chance that, even innocently, I could have given him offense. Why he has done and is doing this I cannot know. For a long

time I was satisfied with the explanation that he is sick. Whether or not he is, whether or not this is his sole motive, it is the effect that counts. That effect is indistinguishable from the consequences of evil intent, for he has succeeded in creating great discord and doing great harm. He is a proselytizer, seeks and gets converts, and has ended or damaged the worthwhile work others were doing. There is no doubting the success of his campaign against me. While I have ignored it for the most part, if dismayed that some of the people he did influence allowed themselves to be, I write you candidly to ask you about this and to ask you why you never sent those libels you promised, if only to put me in a position to make factual response. The night before I went to San Diego at the behest of others, I did phone him. We had a long talk. His amateurish efforts to pump me aside, it was quite revealing. I disproved to him each of the falsities he had manufactured and of which I had knowledge and challenged him to either prove them or retract. Instead he changed his tactics. I also put him in a position to learn for himself whether or not he was right in other of his activities and these, too, he continued, failing to find out for himself what he was into. To me this means only that he is so sick he is beyond hope of so corrupt and evil he must be regarded as of the other side. He is a persistent, persuasive fellow, skilled in deviousness. In time, if these he has influenced are of decent character, they will be embarrassed.

He tries very hard to learn what I have developed. Some people have breached my confidences. This is one of the hazards of trying to help people. Meanwhile, he has an enormous campaign of the opposite, that I am going around "stealing" from others, as though these others had anything to steal to begin with. From him we have had the firm conviction that the assassination was committed from papier-mache trees, aided by vast tunnels secretly dug in the night by Johnson's pals in Brown & Root and as secretly filled in - in Dealey Plaza. When I was there he had just retreaded his absolute and certain proof that for the week prior to the assassination Johnson and Dulles had been engaged in clandestine plottings all around Texas into a Johnson-Rusk formulation, precisely the same evidence that incriminated Dulles magically eliminating him and incriminating Rusk. His entire published output is a remarkably dishonest rehash in Ramparts, in which he was able to bring nothing new to light, and a book of "recently-discovered" documents all of which were out for a long time, some I had published, where he didn't even understand that they really say.

When I agreed for your father to send you POST MORTEM III, I wrote you and specified that you and Nichols could read it and that I wanted the contents kept secret. I now ask if you or he have let anyone else see it or told anyone else of its content. Most of all I ask this of Dave. And I do expect an answer. If you are incapable of seeing the importance this can have, that does not mean it is without importance, especially to me.

I suggest it would be worthwhile for you to go over your file of his stuff and recall what he might have told you and then ask yourself, "suppose this is false?" If it is, for whatever reason, you should find meaning. What I know of is false and cannot be so by accident.

Because of your almost total silence, your failure to respond when written, I have no way of knowing whether he has persisted in this campaign with you also. However, when I consider your silence for so long a time and that you were so close and didn't even call, I ask myself why. I know what it is to be busy. But I also know I can and do find time for these things I really want to do.

Very bad things are happening in the country. Worse impends. Without the assassinations I think the course would have been different. From this I believe that whatever interferes with work on the assassinations, good, solid work, not the flossed-over facies that has so often passed for accomplishment in California, helps what is evil and, regardless of motive, becomes evil itself.;.. Please send me the book immediately, and what you can of the money you owe. Sincerely,
Harold Weisberg