

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
11/22/75

Mr. Tim Ingram, Staff Director
Subcommittee on FOIA and Individual Rights
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Tim,

As you know, I have phlebitis and had a confrontation with David Belin at Vanderbilt University the night of 11/19. That morning I could not lace a shoe and that night I could not wear one. I was otherwise ill but went through with it although thereafter I required assistance even prior to getting on the plane to return.

Meanwhile, from our mailing on Post Mortem we have had the greatest single response ever. With me handicapped and my wife and I to do all this and other work I hope that you will take my writing you at all now as a measure of the seriousness of that of which I do write, which is not all I'd like to take up with you.

Last Saturday morning I received a call from the lecture bureau which books both Belin and me asking that I rush him a copy of Post Mortem. I did. He said Wednesday night that it reached his office just as he was leaving for Nashville. This was during dinner, when he thanked me for rushing it but also said he had not had time to look at it. When it is 660 pp. and the mail in which it went out was only two days prior to his receipt of it I believe him.

The debate was to have been taped by the college radio station. Had I not been promised this I had my own machine with me, was accompanied by Floyd Lamore because I required assistance, and I would have taped our comments.

Before I get into the purposes of this letter and based merely on the news accounts of Belin's appearance before your committee (Donovan had indicated he'd let me see transcripts but has not) Belin lied about the Warren Commission's knowledge of alleged CIA/Cuban plots against JFK. The files abound in various forms of them, I included them in my prepared remarks of which I can provide a copy, I published some in my first book, and Belin was without even pro forma denial.

With the record - his personal record - that I laid on Belin only a psycho would ~~have~~ ^{not} have come apart or at least displayed anger and personal resentment. He merely smiled and lied and evaded until the pressure got stronger. Then he did too things about which I write.

One was to say that in your office he had been given access to a copy of Post Mortem at the time you and Donovan, the only people on the Hill who had copies, by one of you. Both of you knew it was embargoed and that I wanted him to have no knowledge of its contents until the confrontation. One of the uses he made of it was misuse. He appears to have used the thorough index to find references to himself and the Kennedy family. He then tried to get away with lying about the timing of the Tippit killing by direct quotation of Post Mortem as he said from having written down what he used in your offices. While it required time I needed for other purposes I was able to nail him on this. The writing is accurate. He lied, which is his normal behavior on this subject at least. Naturally, I did not like this partly because it represents a breach of trust and partly because it handicapped me in the purposes for which I wanted to confront him when a record was to have been made. (Students are investigating to try to get the tapes of some students who did tape the confrontation.)

However, what really outraged and angered me was his using information or mis-information he attributed to Mrs. Abzug with a specific intention that came out as one of the most obscene anti-Kennedy distribes I have ever heard.

I do not recall his exact words but he was specific in representation of intentions he attributed to Mrs. Abzug, regardless of his source or whether or not it is entirely fabricated. It is that she is going to investigate the (misdated) letter of gift of February 25, 1965 as distinguished from the GSA-Burke Marshall agreement of more than a year later. I had requested but had not obtained a copy of this letter of gift. I have now received and read it.

Pretending to be talking about the gift Belin actually talked about the letter-agreement and introduced that by reading his self-serving letter to Marshall from his book, all the propaganda about royalty, the word he actually used, in connection with what is not included in the gift and in what for a lawyer is an indecency. He kept pretending what is in every sense false, that only because the Kennedy family is royalty the essential evidence, such as the autopsy materials, was withheld from the Commission. It was not. From Post Mortem and Whitewash IV if not from other papers I gave you you know that prior to the medical testimony the Commission did have the X-rays and autopsy pictures and the official records I reproduce in facsimile prove. He then launched into another indecency, ignoring the proof I gave the moderator to read, these records, demanding that all these properly privileged records be published. I went after him several ways on this, one the law and the proper privacy of such record as distinguished from their being used as unpublished investigative materials (and here I demanded and got no answer to whether this would be proper with a Bowery bum or with anyone else) and the other was to demand that he describe from his personal examination of the autopsy pictures the actual point of entry of the fatal head shot. When he, typically, talked about something else I then read the official reading of the Clark panel of X-ray 2, Post Mortem, p. 592 or 590. Unembarrassed he refused to join in a request for a full new investigation but persisted in his insistence that the Kennedy family, this "royalty," had and continued to suppress evidence and to demand that it be released and published. Period. Not interpreted by a duly constituted body or anything like that.

What this monster and others like him are up to, now that they fear the exposure of their own deliberate corruption, is to victimize the victims even more. I cannot and will not be part of anything this evil and wrong.

It has always been my view, in writing, in personal appearances and when I was pro se in an FOIA suit of 1969 or 1970, that the estate is determined by the moment of death. I find in the letter of gift reference to what existed as of this specified date. I also find no reference that I can torture into meaning that it includes anything in any way related to the assassination or the so-called investigation. You lawyers may see and understand or interpret what I cannot, but this is my understanding and there simply is not and cannot be any doubt about the intent Belin attributed to Mrs. Abzug with regard to this letter of gift as it relates to the assassination, not any other matters that might be within legislative responsibility or jurisdiction.

For whatever it may or may not be worth to you, I have taken this time to report what I sincerely hope is a misrepresentation. But whether or not this man I regard as psycho, ^{lied} you appear to have put him in a position to commit this kind of public indecency.

If as reported Mrs. Abzug plans to run for the Senate, I do not believe this will be helpful to her. I am horrified that it was possible for this kind of thing to happen during what was supposed to be a debate on the Warren Commission, not a furtherance of Belin's self-defense or the politics that made him head of lawyers for Nixon.

I remain prepared to help you in any manner you consider I can and despite my analysis of people and forces at work in disinformation on the Hill. There can be no benefit for me in the time this would take. However, I will expect the keeping of confidence and I will not be part of any political twisting of fact and reality, not even against those I consider require investigation. I am sure you and Donovan ought both remember that I specified the preservation of confidence so the whole thing would be available at one time, in, not out of context. Sincerely, Harold Weisberg