

Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701

1/31/75

Mr. Les Whitten  
Jack Anderson  
1612 K St., NW  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Les,

Now that my book Frame-Up has been dead for several years, in part thanks to Jack's hangups, perhaps you would like to go to the Foreman file and recover what Chuck Elliott got from me in early 1971? You could have had this bugging story then, too. One of the victims of the time was my friend.

There remains what the column was interested in four years ago and that I had to keep exclusively for it, Foreman's bribing of Ray. You have xeroxes of the letters.

Chuck Elliott's files may hold it if you don't have it under Foreman.

Too bad about hangups. Journalism and the country suffer for them.

"Menopausal quirks and temptations," Jack's today's confession (my, my and he so young!), do not explain them.

With all that is now on the front pages, may I suggest checking back over some of the columns dealing with political assassinations? They include much crap that I have no doubt was used because it libelled nobody and seemed reasonable. But they were a kind of propaganda and they did serve spook interest. The possibility that the column was used by spooks is worth considering, I think. At some time or another we all trust the wrong people. From your own past you should be able to evaluate the possibility and should know that this is done and how.

I want no publicity on it, but I have copies of CIA surveillance on me. After an initial sort of admission of it they have just denied it. I intend to go to court if it is possible, and Lesar and I think it is possible. In addition, I have substantial reason to believe there were invasions of my First Amendment rights by both CIA and FBI. (In five years neither the Department nor the FBI have denied the report of this that reached me and I reported to Mitchell.)

Now whether it is realized or not, the column reflects a prejudice against the subject on which I've worked for more than a decade. I see no basis in fact or logic for this bias, so I am inclined to attribute it to a trusted source or sources. I had no prior contact with it except prior to World War II. I knew both Drew and Bob Allen then but never met Jack. Nor anyone connected with the column under Jack, after Drew died. I phoned and was told copies of my earlier books were wanted. I delivered them before anyone was in the office. I was never in the office until I responded to Chuck Elliott's requests. And to my own hurt and at publisher request, honored them. I thus see no reason for a personal prejudice against me by those I'd never met unless it was inspired. And if it was inspired, the cause might be relevant to this spook interest in me.

That can't be from the World War II period, prior to or from my OSS service, which was good and was honored. It can't be from the period when I farmed. And when I had to stop farming, the first thing I did was the first book on the Warren Commission. To date no single allegation of factual or doctrinal error has been made to me, and I solicited it from all the members, some of the staff, Hoover, the Secret Service, etc. And since in all this period there was no column item, there can have been no bum steer from me.

So, there can be helpfulness if someone can figure out why these hangups that I do not attribute to menopausal quirks and temptations. I hope you will think of this and seek. I think it also serves Jack's and the column's interest.

Sincerely, Harold Weisberg



2/1/75 P.S. This also explains why I did not ask if the column wanted a copy of my new book, the fourth of the Whitewash series and did not just mail one.

All my books have sold better than the average book. The first was a best seller. The column, unless it threw them away, has all prior to this new one. On the inside back cover of the first the letter predicting a best seller was by the editorial chief of one of two CIA publishers not then known as this. In both houses the book received editorial approval but was rejected. (Lesar and I are tracing a third publishing house we have reason to believe could be CIA.) But with all these books I have been beat out of a fortune, to me at least. The corruption is so total it is not easy to attribute it to normal commercial crookedness because some of it crosses the line into the criminal, mail fraud.

With this last book, after trying three publishers and getting similar reactions, because of the need I felt for the content to be out I decided on being my own publisher again. But at near 62 I did not feel I could honorably extend my debt when I have no regular income and no prospect of any. Lesar, who also had no regular income, offered to borrow the money to pay the printer. So, I am cautious with freebees. In fact, almost all the few press copies have been paid for. And I have paid back about half of what I borrowed in the two months the book has been out. All of the gross income goes for this. Somehow we are absorbing all the other expenses. This is why I did not send you a copy. However, aside from what you may have seen in the long and favorable Post or wire stories, there remains much that I think can make legitimate column items, especially with investigations pending. A few may be indicated in the enclosed flyer, our only promotional material, designed for and mailed to those who have written me over the years.

An impartial reading of this transcript might be good for hangups.

Almost no book stores have copies of the book. All sales are by mail. Aside from those attributable to the mailing or people telling friends, all have come from radio broadcasts where for the first time the stations tell listeners how to write me and the cost of the book. In fact, I ask this in advance because personal publicity means nothing to me and mention of a book that can't be bought is a futility to listeners.

We never expected to show a profit but we would like to break even.

If you have further interest in Foreman perhaps I can be helpful.