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Dear Tim,

Thanks for the quite reasonable explanation of how Belin saw Post Mortem in advance of release in your letter of the 3rd. Perhaps I owe you an apology because as I look back on millions of words of writing the only (and minor) errors I can recall came when I trusted the official word.

In any event, the cause of my emotion was ended the next day when Belin did what I had set out to get him to do and had refused adamantly to do on the 19th, join my decade-long demand for a Congressional investigation. If I did not explain this to you I will on the chance it later serves a purpose. Some of it will be familiar because I made a similar proposal to you. When there was no response I went about this my own way. There was total suppression in all major cities, including the Washington and New York papers, despite long wire-service A wire and radio-wire stories and special reports by at least three radio networks.

Knowing I was confronting Belin at Vanderbilt on the 19th, I arranged a press conference for the 14th to announce the book, embargoed until the 16th. After displaying some of the "new" evidence in Post Mortem I said it includes and I think proves perjury and its subornation, names names and challenged all those named to appear before any duly constituted Congressional committee with both of us subject to the penalties of perjury. This challenge rather than the content of the book was in all stories. If Belin was not aware in advance he was the night of our confrontation, I risked a university reaction that might discourage the lecture bureau, now that I have one, to prepare a speech and to devote it to Belin's personal record in obtaining testimony only an irrational lawyer would not know was false and I added to this proof he suppressed that it was false. Neither could be more material. Belin's area, shared with Joe Ball, was identifying the assassin. (He blabbed crossing over into other areas and pressuring the Commission and staff into doing the improper.)

During the reception that followed it was almost impossible for me to move. Face dark as Caliban's he came over to say a ~~xxx forty~~ goodbye. I asked the students near us to give us privacy. I then told Belin I had spent more time on this subject than anyone else, had and knew much more than I'd said or published and encouraged him to give the most careful thought to any statement he might thereafter make. He started to boast of his own knowledge, stopped, blurted out only "You are wrong" and without saying goodbye turned and left.

Prior to his public call for his kind of Congressional investigation he must have completed reading Post Mortem. Again this gets into an area where I may owe you an apology because of the innocence with which he saw the embargoed book. Instead of phoning me and asking me for a copy he phoned the lecture bureau. In response to their request I sent him a copy, special handling to rush it. Because he went out of his way to say he had seen the book in your committee's office and to allege certain anti-Kennedy intentions to Mrs. Absug I was not sensitive to the fact that had he not seen the content but had seen the cover the result would be the same.

When I wrote you I was put out because of his misuses. It is impossible to address all the lies these experienced lawyers spew out instead of responding. I was astounded that with his own record to confront Belin still refused to join my demand for a Congressional investigation. He insisted on a clearly illegal and improper alternative, as of the time he left.

Meanwhile, that assailing of the seemingly impossible took a heavy toll on me. I

was and remain weary and physically without my normal strength. That night I could hardly take an unlaced shoe off. I had not been able to lace it in the morning. The next morning I could not get a shoe on and wore soft moccasins that, when they got wet, I could not replace at large stores in Nashville. Brentiff's ticket clerk took one look at me and got a wheelchair. The gate clerk loaded me separately through the back door after arranging with the crew to provide me with means of keeping both legs elevated on the return to Washington, where they had an attendant at the plane with another wheelchair. I had to go to the doctor immediately and he put me under new restrictions. Had Floyd Leasure, a Maryland student, not been with me, my difficulties would have been great. This and the potential hazard it represented was in my mind when I wrote you. Fortunately, as it turned out after I wrote you, I succeeded in my purposes and you are in no way responsible for the resultant interference in what I look forward to as a full recovery.

I feel I owe you this explanation/apology.

I also owe you candor. As I indicated I would be writing you again. Instead of what for me were originals of the Connally/back-channel material I was sent illegible copies. I had planned to use them with Melin and could not. I would appreciate the return of the copies I let you have, please. Donovan also has not returned the ESRP/suppressed exhibit copies he borrowed. If I do not now anticipate an emergency use of them it is possible and I would appreciate their return.

While I speak for myself only I am confident I express Jim's desires in saying we will do anything we can to help you. For myself your committee represents one of the possible ends of the work to which I have dedicated myself and my life for so long. However, neither Jim nor I have any regular income. We can't begin to keep up with the work we have undertaken. This has meant he has had to neglect some of our common needs because he also represents me in cases where we are trying to recover monies owed me. Asking him to take the time to prepare a statement and asking him to appear at the hearing and then using neither him nor the statement took enough time for him to have prepared a Complaint in one of those cases. From my own experiences of the past I know that this is not something that is unreason or anything for which I can or do hold you responsible.

However, it does represent a serious problem to me, especially now that I have a book to get out and my capabilities are limited in other ways, including by the phlebitis. We can't spend our time in futilities.

Other matters on which I have been working for years have come to a head. As of now I expect you will learn of them from the papers. They are, I think, clearly within the purview of your subcommittee. I do not believe it will be possible for press treatment to be full and complete. If and when this happens should you have any interest I will, of course, help in every way possible. It is a matter that I do hope your subcommittee will want to go into in complete detail. I have much, much more than can be used journalistically. It includes your subcommittee's responsibilities on "individual rights" in a manner I believe is sensational and unprecedented.

I hope that since you have not sent me copies of the testimony you will send me the printed versions when they appear.

Post Horton was released more than two weeks ago. It is not now necessary to restrict it. I am, in fact, anxious to get all the copies I can out so the contents will be known and so I can begin to recapture what for me is a not inconsiderable investment.

Thanks and best regards,

Harold Weisberg