

Mr. Jonathan Kwitny^N
The Kwitny Report
WNYC-TV
1 Center St. Rm. 1450
New York, N.Y. 10007

7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21701
10/23/88

Dear Mr. Kwitny,

One or more of the men you sent here for help on your coming JFK assassination program robbed me. There is no other possibility, as I'll explain.

I'm 75, of impaired health and limited mobility and, because I believe that FOIA makes me surrogate for the people, I give all who want access to what I got free and almost always unsupervised access to it. It is physically impossible for me to supervise their use of my files. All the FOIA records are in my basement. I can use stairs only infrequently and with difficulty. So, I show those who come where to look and I provide copies of what they want. Sometimes, as with your people, I also show them what I think may be of interest or value to them. I did this with your crew and what I showed them is now missing and there was nobody else here between that time and my discovery of this theft. I discovered it only when I went to show these pictures to the next TV crew here.

What may perhaps trouble you more is that only last night I learned that one of that crew also abused the trust and friendship of a Washington investigator who had been on the staff of the House assassins committee, Kevin Walsh. I suggest that if you are, as I hope, troubled by what I ~~from~~ report you ask Walsh himself.

I've not made a complete canvass and frankly, with some 60 files cabinets, a really complete one is impossible. But of the pictures I refer to, which I did show to Bob Ranftel in the presence of the other two, what I know is missing is some FBI originals that are, to me and to the archive I leave, quite important. They all three thus knew exactly where they were and when I had to be upstairs with my legs elevated, there was nothing to prevent theft other than what apparently does not exist, conscience.

The conditions under which I got those particular pictures are in themselves unusual. I had just gotten a summary judgement against the Department of Justice in another FOIA case and I filed a new request for these pictures. In those days the requests were addressed to the Deputy, then Richard Kleindienst. He asked the FBI for those pictures and when he got them just put them in an envelope and mailed them to me. As I recall, there wasn't even a frank on that envelope. At least one of these pictures of JFK's clothing, which the FBI had not given to the Warren Commission, rather not all of them, was contrived to be reversed on printing and it was. The FBI merely Scotch taped the caption so that this would happen.

In the same place in the same file drawer are other pictures, some of which I believe were taken, of the so-called magic bullet and of the curbstone struck by a bullet.

Stealing from me is particularly unconscionable because I do provide copies and because it steals from everyone else who wants access to the information I have, now and in the future.

I do not presume that those who steal will admit it but I do assure you that nothing else is possible. I discovered this theft only when the next TV crew was here. And I write you as soon as I got your address. I hope you will see to it that these things are returned promptly and in good condition. You are, of course, welcome to copies and to unrestricted use of those copies.

What I say now I say because of my great respect for your fine and important book, Endless Enemies. And so that you not misunderstand why I say this I tell you that I can't drive anywhere to be on a TV show. My driving is limited to about 15

minutes. Moreover, in a week I face further surgery and hospitalization. I've no desire to be on your show and can't see how I could be were you to ask me.

From what has been reported to me by two different sources, you are going to learn that all those who claim to be subject experts are not and, with particular reference to the "debate" between Specter and Belin and Davis and Schein, the latter two know only part of what they've read and all the literature is not dependable. They can perhaps claim to be mafia experts but they've done little or no work on the nuts and bolts of the assassination and its investigations.

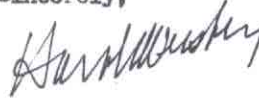
There is a considerable amount of information on this those two don't know even exists. In the information Davis sought from me he made no request for anything at all on that subject. My FOIA litigation, begun 1970, ran for about 15 years and during that time Congress amended FOIA over it to open the FBI, CIA and other such files.

You could have had some truly spectacular stuff within that format but your people didn't indicate any interest, not even when I showed them relevant stuff.

You need not share my belief but I do believe that the assassination of a president is the most subversive of crimes and if informing the people is to be useful and not counterproductive it ought not be treated as a whodunit. My own work, from the outset, has been a study of how our basic institutions worked in that time of great stress and since. Or failed to work. And, of course, the media, all ~~xxxx~~ elements, is one of our basic institutions.

I do hope you will shake your people up immediately and return what they stole when I trusted them and believed that they would conduct themselves as the author of Endless Enemies would have.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg