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December 1, 1966

Dr. J. Thornton Boswell  
Suburban Hospital  
8600 Old Georgetown Road  
Bethesda, Maryland

Dear Dr. Boswell:

It has been reported to me, I hope erroneously, that your failure to respond to my letter of six months ago, with which I enclosed a copy of my book, WHITEWASH: THE REPORT ON THE WARREN REPORT, was due to pique, because I had not consulted you in advance of its publication.

A writer attempting to consult all of the 552 people listed as Commission witnesses and the countless thousands of others in the printed evidence in 27 such massive volumes could never in several lifetimes complete a book.

It is my belief that the autopsy of an assassinated President should be a model of completeness, precision, specification, fact, and accuracy. It is my belief that when a body such as the President's Commission, with a staff of men of such outstanding qualifications, takes testimony from medical experts enjoying the high position and respected status you and your colleagues have earned, all of us, including writers, are entitled to assume and expect that the Commission and its witnesses approached their unhappy responsibilities with unlimited dedication to completeness and truthfulness.

Are you suggesting I should have expected your testimony would be inadequate, incomplete or inaccurate, that the Commission desired this, that the requirements imposed on a pathologist by science and law cannot be met except with the prodding assistance of a writer?

The Commission and the medical experts made their own record. All will have to stand on it.

As always happens with this subject, whenever official persons make statements, they raise more questions than they answer. This is true of your statements to the Baltimore Sun, broadcast widely by the Associated Press.

As in the past, I shall make no effort to force myself upon you or Dr. Humes, no effort to entice you to say anything you do not want to say. Whether or not you elect to see me and answer questions is entirely your decision. My original offer stands: I will make a tape recording and provide you with a copy.

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I cannot avoid noting for the present and for history that you and Dr. Humes decline or refuse to see those you have reason to believe seriously question the autopsy and the testimony on it while, for example, seeing Fletcher Knebel, a Commission defender. I note also that you granted an interview to the Baltimore Sun when it was first apparent to you that the reporter had no knowledge of the subject matter at all and had as his sole purpose eliciting from you what you ultimately said, that you erred in the official autopsy chart.

My new book, WHITEWASH II, will soon be available. This time I shall not send you copies. But I do want you to know that among the things I say and prove in it is that the President got an autopsy unworthy of a Bowery bum.

Yours truly,

Harold Weisberg

cc: Dr. Humes