

Harold Weisberg Hyattstown, Md.
October 25, 1966

Dear Mr. Cossaboom,

Your letter of the 22 is interesting. I wish I had the time to make adequate answer. I also found your proposed newspaper column interesting (but I might suggest that it is it to be used it might serve more purpose if the reader were informed how to get the books).

You, of course, do state the problem correctly. What may we properly be required to take on faith? This is not a new problem, nor is this the first time we have had to face it in our country.

Historically we have often reached the correct national determination, usually by not taking on faith what in a democratic society must not, by my concepts, ever be. Government is but the servant of the people. It may not demand that it be above criticism or scrutiny. At that point, whatever the reason given, the character of the government and of its relationship to the people changes entirely. This, at least, is my concept.

It is also my belief that the citizen owes it to his society to question what he believes must be questioned, especially about its government. Government has not and must not have immunity from the closest examination. When this time comes, the citizen becomes its creature.

Sorry I haven't time for a longer letter. Thanks very much for writing.

You will be more than welcome should you drive up some night or weekend. It is about an hour away from you, less if you know the way. Please call us first and wait about a week for us to catch up on some of the more pressing immediate things.

Take 708 at any point, either in Bethesda or from the circumferential, go to the Hyattstown cloverleaf, come off and go as though to Hyattstown. The first structure is our empty hen house. The next is our unfinished home. Come around to the back of it. The home is but a long city block from the exit of the highway.

Sincerely,

Sat., Oct. 22
1706 16th St. NW
Washington, D.C.

Harold Weisberg
% Post Office
Hyattstown, Maryland

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

I am writing to you because of the great personal interest I have taken in the assassination. ~~I~~^{if} I see this problem more keenly than most persons, both because (1) the credibility of this government and country stands or falls FOR ME on whether we have been told the truth about the event by the W.C. and (2) I am now training as a junior Foreign Service officer for USIA. And we have been told in no uncertain terms we must STAND BY the Warren Report overseas.

VOA head John Chancellor even had what I consider the anti-democratic gall to tell a group of us to take it ON FAITH, as it were, ~~because~~^{because} the Commissioners are honorable men, etc. (what a parallel with Anthony's speech this would make) not necessarily because they have presented a compelling case which can take the harsh light of reason, logic and penetrating skepticism. I cannot maintain my honesty and do this. I feel too strongly that the W.R. is not the whole truth, although I will not venture further at this point.

I have read your wonderful book, as well as those of Fex, Buchanan, Papkin, and Epstein. I am now reading Kush and will purchase Sauvage. I have read everything I can get my hands on. Have you seen the apologetic articles in Saturday Review by Judge Rein and USNWR by Specter? They are nauseating, infuriating, and an insult to the intelligence of anyone, ~~intellectual~~^{intellectual} meddling of the public. The slams against your book have been particularly vitriolic and baseless.

I have ~~now~~ enclosed a column I sent to my local hometown newspaper in New Jersey. They may use it as a column or a letter after the election, when they have more space. I used to write a column for this paper and often contribute to it.

The point of this letter, to get to it, is that after reading your book and marking it up beyond recognition with questions and comments, I have as many questions to ask you about the Report and your book. I couldn't hope to phrase them in a mere letter. So I was wondering whether I could drive out to your place to speak with you personally some weekend or some week night? It would

be entirely at your convenience. Just name a time and place and tell me how to get there. I realize you must be a busy man. I knew you are scheduled to appear on a television panel Saturday, Nov. 12 which I don't want to miss and which I am going to drive home to view with my parents who have a tv. I don't have one here. They saw you on an earlier program and were very impressed by your remarks. I loaned my copy of Whitewash to them and they read it as did my aunt in New York.

SO -- if you could spare a little time to talk to a confused, bewildered and embittered perhaps USIA trainee, at any time you name, I would be greatly appreciate. Perhaps we might discuss what I might do to help any efforts that are being made to get the whole thing reopened. For I agree with you wholeheartedly that people have all too ~~easy~~ ^{easy} forgotten the memory of JFK and what he stood for (the good things, that is) and that the best way to do him homage is to insist on the truth about his untimely demise -- even if it is above the protesting howls of Jackie, Bobby, Earl, and Lyndon if need be.

Sincerely,

Bruce Cassabeem

Bruce Cassabeem
1706 16th St. NW
Washington, D.C.