

John Christian

July 21, 1967

Speaker Jesse M. Unruh
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, California

Dear Jess:

I mean this to be the most serious, thoughtful letter I ever write to you; it will preface, I pray, a similarly toned personal conversation with you at your earliest possible availability.

Some five months back I became intrigued with the national phenomenon of the public's attitude toward the validity of the Warren Commission's conclusions about the events before, during and after the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Both the Gallup and Harris poles indicated that 65-70% of the public found the Commission's findings unacceptable, the predications running from overt cynicism to scholarly insight. It was this latter area that tweaked my imagination and appetite.

A friend of mine, Harv Morgan - formerly in radio in Cleveland and now the eventide mainstay at KCBS here in the City - has been one of those rare animals in the media to have maintained an open mind about the pros and cons of this traumatic matter over the past 3½ years, giving substantial airtime to the likes of Mark Lane, J. Edward Epstein, Jack Buchanan, and Harold Weisberg, these being the academicians in literary response to the Report; My particular attention focused on the approach of Weisberg, if only because his writing and collation had been akin to the fabled works of William Shirer on Germany during the disastrous era of Hitler. This is not an idle tribute or comparison.

Weisberg's battlecry is straightforward and unequivocal: The Warren Commission's conclusions vis-avis its investigative findings (the available Archives and accompanying "26 volumes") is a non-sequitor; in other words, the Commission's findings are wholly refuted by a thorough and objective review of its own investigative material. Weisberg has used this same formula in producing his initial four books in a projected anthology. His published works to date include:

WHOTFWASH: The Report on the Warren Report
WHOTFWASH II: The FBI-Secret Service Coverup
PHOTOGRAPHIC WHOTFWASH: Suppressed Kennedy Assassination Pictures
CJA WHOTFWASH: Oswald in New Orleans

The first three of these are being sent to you under separate cover, the last will be sent as soon as it comes off the presses.

In effect, Weisberg is writing history before it happens; the contents of his works have been pook-pooked by a jealous news hierarchy, potential publishers have been

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intimidated and harrassed by clandestine actions of certain Government (FBI & CIA) elements, with threats to terminate contracts and/or distribution under Government auspices. This is not paranoia, Jess; there is concrete evidence to substantiate each of these allegations; the quandary is: What recourse does the man have? None; but publish he will - privately, as he was forced to do in both his first two works, until he sold more than 20,000 of each by mail at \$4.95 a clip from his farm in Maryland, these orders the result of his appearances on radio and TV talk shows in the East and Mid-West, all expenses paid out of his own meager pockets - and through the likes of Dell Publications, which has, in six months, sold nearly 500,000 of the first book and printed an advance of 350,000 of the second; this amounts to a Best Seller in any gaging, to a clientele which must be way above average in intelligence to comprehend his message. Weisberg, alone, is lighting an academic fire which will nurture and kindle a spirit of protest for years to come, to say nothing of his forcing his adversaries from the darkness within which they now reside. That's not just pontification, Jess; it just fell out of my head thataways.

I broach this matter with you not for purposes of handselling you into buying my or Weisberg's thesis on anything; rather, as one of this country's damned few political leaders in conscience and action, I submit that there is another bona fide side to the controversy about the murder of your mutually devoted friend, Jack Kennedy. I ask only that you give history a chance to enjoy your perceptive judgment.

In my opinion, but not mine alone, the New Orleans trials on Andrews and Shaw are going to rock this Republic to its very foundation, no matter what posture taken by the national news media; the facts, the irrefutable material facts will overturn some fraudulently instilled notions about the killing of Jack Kennedy that will cast even darker clouds over some very high political leaders and their long-cultivated institutions.

The course of history has been artificially changed, Jess, with portents of sadness for all mankind; please lend your unique qualities toward the return of reason and logic, before we all go up in smoke.

With Sincerest Personal Regards,

John G. Christian

JGC: tm

*cc: Jack Cooke ✓
Harold Weisberg ✓*