

Mr. Richard Lingeman, executive editor
The Nation
72 Fifth Ave.,
New York, NY 10011

cl 9/95 Harold Welsberg
7627 Old Receiver Rd.
Frederick, MD 21702

Dear Mr. Lingeman

A friend sent me copies of pages from Alexander Cockburn's "The Golden Age Is -n Us" in which he refers to the JFK assassination. Based on those pages it is safe to say there is nothing golden in Cockburn or in his intentions. A few of those pages lead me to take the time to ^{provide} ~~provide~~ you with the opportunity + have no reason to believe you (plural) want or will use in a belated effort to recapture the personal and professional integrity you all threw away after your first few stories on the JFK assassination. However, for my purpose the time this takes will not be entirely wasted because it provides me with the opportunity to add to the doctrine of my work on the assassination, that in that time of stress and ever since all the basic institutions of our society failed and persist in failing. ~~Witness~~ Cockburn down on his knees kowtowing to the official mythology. And flaunting the most astounding ignorance of well-established facts, such abysmal ignorance a writer with any self-respect would have the common sense to keep his mouth clamped. But that is not a Cockburn practise, is it.

Please excuse my typing. I'm 82, limited in what - am able to do although I have continued writing, and I must keep my legs elevated when I am not on them. I'm sorry my typing and writing cannot be any better.

Because to The Nation I am a nonperson and my work, now consisting of nine published books, does not exist, I suggest a few qualifications for what I say.

In one of the dozen or so FOIA lawsuits - filed to bring suppressed assassination information to light, the Department of Justice told that court that I know more about the JFK assassination than anyone working for the FBI. Several of those lawsuits were precedential and one contributed to the 1974 amending of the Act to make FBI, CIA and similar agency files accessible under it. ^{Mine} ~~They~~ are the only books on either side of the ^{controversy} ~~controversy~~ that eschew theorizing and are limited to what the government says is the actual evidence. My current book is NEVER AGAIN!, in the sense this should never happen to us again. If you or your David Corn are interested, I am not far from his home or office and he is welcome to see what I think you ^{and} ~~and~~ he may regard as the most unusual documentary basis for my work, about 60 file cabinets of it, mostly formerly withheld official records most of which came from the FBI and all of which will be a permanent public archive as for practical purposes it has always been because I have always given unsupervised access to it and to our copier to all working in the field. ~~And~~ I do know that all or almost all of them will write what + do not agree with.

On page 17 Cockburn says that Tom Schmidt's mimeograph machine was "the

~~the~~ machine that had produced the leaflets that eventually reached Lee Harvey Oswald and were handed out by him in "Dallas." Almost all of what Oswald handed out - in New Orleans, not Dallas - were handbills printed for him in New Orleans. The few pieces of FPOC literature he had and gave out were printed.

This is Cockburn's reflection of his knowledge and it is also his high point.

Of the political stupidities in which Cockburn indulges I cite only that on page 25, that "Whether J.F.K was killed ... by a conspiracy has as much to do with subsequent contours of American politics as if he had tripped ~~one~~ one of Caroline's dolls ~~and...~~"

Referring to his interview of Wesley Liebeler, former Commission counsel who has trouble living with his Commission record and trouble telling the truth even by accident, he quotes Liebeler as saying on page 259 that "The Warren Commission didn't know anything about this evidence, this evidence being the ^{recorded} ~~transcribed~~ broadcasts of the time ~~for~~ ^{of} an assassination by the Dallas police. The Commission knew so little about those recordings that it had the FBI dub them and transcribe them and as Liebeler knows very well, it then published them.

Referring to the position in which then Texas Governor John B. Connally was when he was wounded, with the conditional to avoid deliberate lying, this is on page 260: "If his hand is on ~~the~~ his thigh, which is consistent with the Zapruder film..." As Liebeler knew very well, that film shows Connally with his Stetson in his elevated right hand when he was hit.

What is next on the position of the bodies of both victims is not true but I do not take time for it. Later on that same page is the overt, deliberate lie that when JFK received the fatal shot in the head "It doesn't move backward. It moves slightly to the left and downward." There is nothing more graphic in that film than the President's head goes sharply forward and then ever so much more violently straight back. ~~XXXXXX~~ After that it moves ~~right~~ "slightly to the left and downward; ²⁴ he falls over entirely to his left, onto his wife.

Cockburn has a long and clear history of hating JFK so he must have welcomed what only a subject-matter ignoramus would not have known is deliberately false. He asked Liebeler "why didn't the Warren Commission have access to the autopsy photographs and X-rays?" to which Liebeler responds, "Warren didn't want to ~~press~~ Bobby Kennedy, who controlled them, for their release." I add the emphasis to underscore ~~lie~~ Liebeler's deliberate dishonesty. "Release" was never a question and the truth is that Bobby never denied the Commission the use of them. + go into this with the unpublished official evidence in the chapter "Hades Not Came Lot" in my 1975 Post Mortem. It was Arlen Specter, like Liebeler and the others always ~~giving~~ giving his own ass, who made the records (page 549 of that book, in facsimile) of the fact that Bobby's only condition on the use of anything

at all was that it be "necessary." Spetter added those ~~films~~ would be seen by the staff only and then for the sole purpose of validating the drawings used instead of the film, ~~with~~ the film itself not to be even in the "Commission's records."

In Whitewash IV, which I published in 1974, on page 133 I print in facsimile a page from the Commission's executive session of January 21, 1964. There Commission ~~er~~ John McCloy asked, "...They talk about the color^{ed} photographs of the President's body - - do we have those?" General counsel J. Lee Rankin responded, "Yes...."

Spetter had already been shown at least one of those ~~e~~/color pictures by the Secret Service, as he told The NY News and World ~~report~~ three decades ago.

So, this is still another lie, ~~and~~ blaming the ~~Lead~~ Bobby for their own shortcomings.

There is another lie on the same page, "it would be nice to have an eyewitness who said that when he ~~gave~~ ^{Oswald} a ride to work that morning he had a bag with him, and there was one." There were in fact ~~two~~, and both described a package that could not possibly have held that rifle. In addition to which the only person who saw Oswald enter that building swore he had no package at all. ~~Lidveler~~ also said that the "bag" in which the rifle allegedly was "had Oswald's palm print." My recollection is that it was a thumb print but if it was a palm print it was on the inside of the so-called bag and there was not a single print of any kind on the outside where Oswald was ~~seen~~ to carry it first by the top, which was entirely uncrumpled by that, and on the bottom as he carried it toward the building. So we have a magic bag that is even more magical than this: it held ~~the~~ rifle the FBI described as "well-oiled" without picking up the tiniest smidgeon of oil while Oswald carried it and ~~for~~ for the miles the rifle bounced around in it as the car took them to work.

Liebeler and Cockburn say of the Tippit killing on page 262 that, "we've got forensic evidence that shows clearly Tippit was killed by bullets from the gun Oswald was carrying." They get no such "forensic evidence" from the FBI. Its lab said it could not associate any one of those four bullets with that ~~piccol~~ gun.

On page 352 Cockburn says that the Commission ~~er~~/lawyers had what "they used to call the 'washing machine' construct of Oswald's personality, meaning that if only he had been able to afford to buy Marina a washing machine he would not have felt impelled to kill the President." In fact, they planned to get their own apartment in Dallas and the ~~myth~~ of the assassination Oswald left for Marina, as the long statement she wrote out for the Secret Service before the FBI started threatening her with deportation is specific in saying, the money with which to buy that washing machine!

The lying Commission lawyers' lie eliminates their imagined motive for Oswald to ~~do~~ the killing.

Which the official evidence actually proves he did not do in any event.

I doubt you'll get my NEVER AGAIN! although I think it would not hurt you to at this late date have some slight contact with reality, not the guff you have believed and infrequently said for years, so - enclose a few pages.

What is most important in the official evidence is whether Oswald could have been the assassin who fired those three admitted shots in less than six seconds ^{as} the Commission said. Liebelier goes into the ^{dubious} claim of the House assassins committee of the late 1970s, that the first shot was fired a tiny bit more than a second earlier than the Commission said. With both it is conjecture. But Liebelier lies about the timing to say that for Oswald "There was enough time" in the conjecture 6.72 seconds of the House committee's conjecture. Liebelier lied and he knew he lied. I do not go into ^{all} aspects of this because that is not necessary. Liebelier knew about the tests conducted for the Commission on just that point and ^{it} ignored in its report. I first ^{begin} brought the results of those tests to light in my first book, which was the first book on the Commission. Whitewash: the Report on the Warren Report was finished mid-February 1965. I added to it by much in NEVER AGAIN! of that I enclose the pages on which it is without question that the best shots in the country, under vastly improved conditions and after that rifle was overhauled, could not duplicate the shooting attributed to Oswald!!!

Now if by any remote chance Liebelier missed this in the Commission's work and files and volumes, he got it from me when he bought a copy of that book from me. And I had to keep dunning him to get paid for it.

All the Commission lawyers knew that there was no bullet hole in the President's shirt collar. They avoided getting ~~from~~ the FBI its picture they had in a composite that proves it. I have a replacement ^{copy} that is not much good while outfit is being repaired so that page is not very clear. However, if you look at this poor xerox it is obvious that the only ~~damage~~ damage to that collar was from a scalpel, as the actual evidence is, during the emergency procedures at the hospital. Those two slits are not the same length and do not coincide with each other as would have happened with the collar buttoned. The one closer to the nurse is much longer, the slit to the right as you look at that page.

On the next two pages I have copied of the pictures of the tie, of the knot that in the official mythology that bullet went through. There is no hole of any kind in it at all. There is the visible scalpel cut and the little nick where the FBI removed a small sample that did not even include any of the tie lining for spectrographic analysis. Which proved that no bullet had struck it. Overkill save for The Nation, its Cockburn and those upwardly-mobile Commission layers who failed themselves when they failed the country and have perpetuated the lie they foisted off on us then,

Cockburn on his knees before the government a la Orwell is a beautiful picture. But the record The Nation has made for itself on this crime that turned the world around is ~~not~~ anything but pretty. Sincerely, Harold Weisberg