

TRISTRAM COFFIN

5601 Warwick Place
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

Jan. 27, 1975

Dear Harold Weisberg:

I have been reading with fascination your latest expose-book. You have done a real service by bringing this information to light, and it should be valuable to the Congressional investigations of the FBI.

I can readily see what happened. Hoover would do almost anything to prevent any information that Oswald had been on the FBI payroll from getting on the record. And no one had enough nerve to demand any honest answer from him, for several reasons. The fear of Hoover's "files," a fear that the whole structure of law and order would fall apart once it was revealed a Presidential assassin worked for the agency.

Hoover, always in a row with the other law enforcement agencies, was probably sure the information had been leaked by Secret Service or CIA, etc., and would be used to dethrone him. So he fought it savagely. You may ~~read~~ have read in the Washington Post a few days ago that the FBI fed Hale Boggs a great deal of derogatory information on critics of the Warren Commission, and this aroused Boggs' concern.

I once wrote an article for Holiday which made fun of Hoover, and his assistant Deke DeLoach called me and profanely accused me of treachery, etc. When he finally cooled down, he asked me if I had been "put up to this by the CIA." This indicates the atmosphere of paranoia in which Hoover operated.

In the political struggles of 1960, Hoover was giving Lyndon Johnson information on John Kennedy's romantic escapades; that is Hoover distinctly sided with LBJ and tried to stop Kennedy's nomination.

Sincerely,

