

Dear Mr. Neichter,

6/18/92

I'm into too much for one of my age and limitations but at the moment, with my wife canning and freezing strawberries and a history professors friend working in my files I can at least begin a response.

We mailed you the Whitewash last week. If it does not come, let me know.

What you say about Senator Cooper is correct and I regret learning about his position too late. As you'll see from Whitewash IV, I think, I had a relationship with Senator Russell, who had, along with Senator Cooper, very strong reservations about the Report, particularly the single-bullet theory, which they rejected. Congressman Boggs was not as firm in his opposition.

Senator Russell's deposit at the University of Georgia confirms our relationship. According to the memo to him from his legislative assistant, we were in agreement. It is tragic that he knew he was in terminal illness when we were in touch.

If Senator Cooper had let any indication of his doubts be known I'd have been in touch with him and could have given him much.

In retrospect, I should have known that any male Kentuckian would never have gone for that concoction about ^{rifles} ~~rigs~~ and shooting! I spent time in Southeastern Kentucky years ago, Harlan and Mondon Counties, had good friends, including some expert shots, and one gave me an old Stevens dueling pistol he had inserted the rifling of a .22 into. It is an accurate pistol. I used to shoot rats in the henhouses with it after dark.

It may interest you to know that I was first in Kentucky when Justice borrowed me from the staff of the Senate Civil Liberties Committee for its "Bloody Harlan" prosecution, U.S. v. Mary Helen et al, circa 1938. I assisted the prosecution in various ways, more than for help in preparing duces tecum subpoenas, until I learned how and by whom the jury had been fixed. When the Assistant AG in charge of the case and the FBI agents did not believe me, I got relieved to return to my Senate job.

Is Cooper still alive? Would he, if alive, want to know anything at his age. I'm 79 and he would be much older. I did send him and the other Commission members a copy of Whitewash in 1966. He did not respond then. Maybe he never saw it.

My books were the first to use the Hiltner tape, but I did in the sense of is this a way to run an investigation. I doubt there is relevance.

Bugliosi is commercializing the assassination. He knows nothing about it, actually. If he had any self-respect he'd never have responded to you as he did.

Everything I have goes to local Hood College, a fine formerly all-girls' school, now largely still tight, and it is excellent. It has a supermodern library yet to be dedicated officially and when my records are there plans to make them available to other institutions by means of modern electronic gadgetry that is and will be a mystery to me. The students use my records and some duplicates they have and have for some years. They've turned out

some good papers, too. Including on the King assassination. I was Ray's investigator. I did the investigating for the successful habeas corpus and for the two weeks of evidentiary hearings to determine whether he'd get a trial. Based on my evidence and a theory I developed for the case - after all, he had been represented by Percy Foreman - we exculpated Ray. But the judge held that guilt or innocence were then immaterial and ruled against him. I hold several seminars at Hood each year.

I have the JAMA stories, thanks, and have begun what I hope I'll be able to finish, a book on it. The overt lying is incredible! And it makes a good peg on which to hang the documented proof.

I do appreciate your kind comments. And I never believed there was anything to fear. My wife will prepare the package. If as I think you overpaid, she's adjust it.

Thanks and best wishes,

Harold Weisberg

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June 12, 1992

Mr. Harold Weisberg
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Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Thank you for your letter to me of last month. I was a history major in college, so I really appreciate both your comments and the research you have done on this subject. Perhaps, truth is stranger than fiction. Last week, at the Kentucky Bar Association Convention, I was able to question Vincent Bugliosi. His talk ran late, so I asked him if he did not think a cheap rifle, with a misaligned scope and 20 year old ammo was an odd choice for a political assassination, especially when the fatal shot was roughly 300 feet. After ignoring my question about the scope, he stated that the use of a \$12.00 rifle was evidence that there was no conspiracy, because the conspirators would not have provided Oswald with such a poor weapon! I thought this was a rather novel answer.

As this was the first day of the convention, I was branded the "Kennedy assassination expert". Surprisingly, virtually all comments made to me agreed there was a conspiracy.

In a private conversation last week, Joseph Lambert, an Associate Justice of the Kentucky Supreme Court, told me an interesting story. He had worked for Senator John Sherman Copper and remained a close friend until his death. Judge Lambert told me that in his later years, Senator Cooper had come to doubt the conclusions of the Warren Commission. He said

they had done the best they could, but that if someone could prove them wrong, he would sure like to see their proof.

As you may know, Senator Cooper is rather revered in Kentucky because he was always considered one of our state's few honest politicians.

I have just read Jean Hill's book, The Last Dissenting Witness, and found it very interesting. I have also read as much of the three Whitewash books as time has allowed. I found it amazing how the Warren Commission apparently ignored FBI and Secret Service conclusions, that this was a bad case of making the evidence fit the crime. I have seen the prosecution do this in most of the cases that I have defended.

I also find it amazing in the affidavit of Officer Marion Baker that parts of his own affidavit have been scratched out! If you tried to admit something like that into evidence the opposing side would have a field day.

Your comments about your own personal mail being tampered with is very interesting. I feel that the Mafia and probably the right wing were involved in the assassination. The Milteer tape from the Arts and Entertainment show "The Men Who Killed Kennedy" was shocking. I do feel certain that after Kennedy's death it was "cover your rear" time for the FBI, CIA, the Dallas police and the Secret Service. In many ways, they were all compromised in classic Mafia-fashion.

I wish to inquire whether any or all of your papers or files have been placed in a university or public setting where they may be studied by researchers.

Again, thank you for your letter and I would certainly appreciate any additional comments you have. I feel that I have "taken the next step" by reading your books, because I am seeing the real evidence rather than a third hand account of the more commercial books available.

I am sending you a check for the balance I owe on the Whitewash books and a check for all your other books, separate

list enclosed.

I plan on getting a copy of the Journal of the American Medical Association article on Kennedy's death next week. If you have not already received a copy let me know and I will xerox mine.

After reading your books my admiration for you has done nothing but increase. I am just beginning to realize the personal risks and sacrifices you must have made to obtain this evidence.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill Neichter".

William L. Neichter

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