

Harold Weisberg  
Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701  
8/10/73

Dear Mr. Couch,

Your letter has been forwarded. Please note our new address.

Honesty requires that I begin with what you will take as disappointment. First because the amount of information I have collected that I have not published is too extensive to begin to describe - and because if and when it is possible I will publish more. I have much more ready for publication. Second because unless the kind of presentation Katz is making has changed radically it is a cruel exploitation of the concern of people like you, a collection of all the irresponsible writings of others for which he and his associates are paid for presenting at whatever colleges they can entice.

None of that group has done any original work and none of whom I know really cares. They seem to have a good thing going and they are reaping all they can harvest. If you draw upon that kind of rubbish you will defame yourself if you attain publication. Having doubts about the honesty of the official story is one thing but publishing that kind of utter irresponsibility that I have seen and heard from that gang is an entirely different matter. Moreover, the skilled use of that kind of trash behind the scenes by those who can and do reach people of influence is a great deterrent to sponsoring any interest in getting the truth out by those who might be turned on. It is destroyed that easily, it is that outrageously paroid and irresponsible.

So, the first thing I would impress upon you is the need for knowing what you say, not just quoting some unofficial source who has improvised upon someone else's invention. Those of us who have honest and serious purposes owe this not only to our own integrity but to those who may trust what we write. The people have been imposed upon too much by both sides.

Despite the blurb distributed with it Executive Action is fiction that had its origin in a book by the French equivalent of CIA, SDECE. I'd be without objection if it had been presented as fiction but I have the strongest objection to its false representations. If you use sources like this, Katz, the incredible insanity that appears in Computers and things like them, quit now before you have too much to live down. If you do not, when you are older you will be very much ashamed.

Unless you pick a very restricted subject, you will not learn enough in nine months to write responsibly. The material is too vast.

I doubt Garrison will answer you and you'll be better off if he doesn't. He sponsored this fake book of SDECE's, Farewell America, in the U.S. In fact, the title is his. It was originally America Burns ("L'Amérique Brule"). I warned him against it in June 1968, after he gave me a chapter to read for him. He laid his egg in court. Before I knew what kind of case he intended, I gave him all the medical evidence he used in that trial. It is from my Post Mortem, which I have not been able to get printed.

While it is my disposition to be of all the help I can to younger people, I am 61, I have been at this for 10 years, have more work than I can get done, and just can't take the time for extensive correspondence with those who are without adequate factual basis and lack the factual knowledge for discrimination between attractive inventions and what can be credited either as fact or as substantial reasoning.

It was not possible to finance continued publication of the books I projected. In addition to the three you have read, I brought out Oswald in New Orleans, which is out of print, and on the King assassination, Frame-Up. Its price is \$10 plus \$1.50 postage and insurance.

By all means continue your research. But be sure of the truth and reasonableness of whatever you may write. Do not further abuse a much-abused people.

Sincerely,

N. Blake Couch  
212 Aundria  
Lafayette, La. 70501

Mr. Harold Weisberg  
Hyattstown, Md. 20734

Dear Sir,

Having read three of your books (Whitewash, Whitewash II, and Photographic Whitewash--I haven't been able to find CIA Whitewash), I think I can say without reservation that you are a fanatic on the subject of the JFK assassination. I am a student of the assassination and a fanatic thereof, though to a lesser degree than you. I am firmly convinced that if Lee Oswald did kill Kennedy, which he probably didn't, he must have had help in the form of another gunman. I cannot deny the evidence (reproduced, of course) which I have seen with my own eyes. Most of the evidence which disproves the "lone gunman theory" can be found in the Warren Commission volumes themselves. I'm sure no one knows this better than you: if Oswald had stood trial, any competent defense attorney would have been able to rip the "evidence" apart and get an acquittal. This is almost as unfortunate and tragic as the assassination itself, that Oswald did not live to stand trial and clear up the controversy.

I was originally "turned on" to the idea of a conspiracy about six months ago, by the film "Executive Action". Later, I attended Bob Katz' presentation "Who Killed Kennedy?" at the University of Southwestern Louisiana. This gave the idea of a conspiracy more basis in fact. I chose the topic for my final term paper in American History

class at Acadiana High School here in Lafayette. About six weeks later, after much research, I produced a rather short but convincing paper, dealing mainly with the shots fired upon the motorcade and how their timing and the physical evidence of the President's and Governor Connally's wounds disproved the lone gunman theory. The paper was well-liked by friends and relatives, and especially my teacher. He advised me to continue my research. This is what I am doing. I have broadened my research to numerous sources which I could not find during the school year, and at the end of the coming nine months I hope to have written something worthy of commercial publication. And I am asking you, Mr. Weisberg, if you can find the time, to provide me with any information you might have regarding the assassination that you have not already published. I made this same request of Jim Garrison many weeks ago and I have yet to hear from him. I already know of the defeat of your action to get the release the President's autopsy photographs; perhaps you could enlighten me about this, since all I know is what I have read in the papers. Your advice on how to go about researching the assassination would be extremely helpful. Feel free to use the enclosed envelope.

Please don't disappoint me, Mr. Weisberg. I'll be looking forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully yours,

  
N. Blake Couch