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12/1/90

Dear David,

In the jumble created by my physical impairments I've mislaid your letter but I recall that you wanted my opinion of Moore's book. I've read about a quarter of it and my stomach ought not be abused by any more of it on any day. It is not merely that I am a slow reader. I have been annotating it as I go. And there is much to annotate!

Were I to describe it as bullshit I'd be praising it because there is a use to which bullshit can be put. It is a thoroughly dishonest egotrip by an arrogant, self-important man who has to have some ulterior purpose. I think more than mere self-promotion. He is also a lair, rather regularly. and withall this book is also silly and stupid. Yet he calls it the one "definitive" book! Without reference to any of the many records disclosed and to his knowledge disclosed in the past 15 years or to those not published by the Commission but available since 1966. Beginning then. I checked his footnotes for a different reason, to which I'll come, and saw not a single reference to a single document from either repository. As I think I told you, I have about a third of a million pages and they are available to anyone. So this also is anything but a scholarly book, bdsides being utterly incompetent.

He employs a trick throughout that some of his ilk, beginning with Charles Roberts, oversued. He refers to all critics but sites a single one of his selection, but referring to all, even though all do not agree on what he has cited. Through the first quarter he did not cite any of my books and when I just labored through his corrupt and fabricated reconstruction of the alleged Oswald flight, which in my first book, which he has, I went into at some length and added more later, it not only became clear why - he also exposed himself and his wild imaginings and his corruption and dishonesty. (copy in notes)

So, as I was thumbing through the pages of each chapter to check his notes, which in themselves are a story, I noted two snide cracks about me - both plagiarized. That I allegedly believed nothing in the Warren Report other than the footnotes comes from another plagiarist, Professor Kurtz. And that I am only a "Maryland poultry farmer" comes from that expert cribber and egotist Mark Lane.

By the way, when I got disgusted with both non-fiction in which the line was pre-ordained and government research of the same kind, I did become a poultry farmer - and officially the best in the country in the only dressed-poultry competition ever held while I farmed and the first there ever was. I was also the National Barbecue King and my wife was the National Chicken Cooking Champion (I was Maryland's about a dozen times) and President Eisenhower wrote us how much he enjoyed my wife's recipes and he raised some of my rare ducks on his farm. We both declined an invitation to appear at the White House and be photographed with him because we were that much against Nixon, of whom we then knew too much.

If I did not tell you, I was earlier a reporter, syndicated before I was 20, an investigative reporter, a Senate investigator and editor and a wartime intelligence analyst, a trouble-shooter in an agency of them, the OSS. At least my Senate experience is indicated in the introduction of my first book, which he has. And which in his letter that I sent you he indicated he prized, although other interpretations are possible.

I'm tired and I ramble but first I want to explain that this also serves as part of a record for archival purposes, for history. Since the reverses to my health I've been annotating the new books that I get. I don't bother with Murrs. In confidence, the publisher asked me to skim it and I would not put my name on any manuscript I only skimmed, but I did select a chapter while waiting to see if he wanted me to do more and it was simply terrible.

If my wife were not 78 and with her own collection of medical problems I'd dictate my comments on these books. That would make them more available but it isn't practical for us now. With books that could be expected to have more impact I sat, with my legs up and facing the typewriter while reading the book off to my right. But that is uncomfortable, too much so for so silly and stupid a triviality as this flaunting of ignorance and personality failures.

Perhaps unfairly, but I got the impression while checking his few footnotes, none for what in some instances is important to what he is saying, that he doesn't have the Warren Commission's 26 volumes. Or, if he has them, doesn't use them. He usually cites books that cite them. Where he doesn't, since he has established himself as a cribber, I have no trouble believing that he cited the Commission for what he read in books.

As an additional and as a specific measure of his integrity, meaning the lack of it, on the last page I read and annotated, 53, he cites as a "key" to Oswald's guilt the alleged fact that he was about to buy a Dr. "apper, ~~mm~~ which he always drank, but got a coke, which he never drank. Some amateur shrinkery! But what is his source on the Dr. "apper? Only one - Jim Bishop. Yet he wrote me in a letter I found elsewhere, to which I'll return, in 1975, when he was an arrogant kid, that personally Bishop was not only *not on* the level and that his book is "junk". So, what he himself described as junk is his only source on his "key" to Oswald's guilt. And leading up to this he has an assortment of misrepresentations and pure inventions. ~~Well, that is not an appropriate word to apply to him or anything I've read of his.~~

I had no recollection of him but I wondered if he'd gotten any of our books. My wife handles those records and her office is at the opposite end of the house. So, she keeps the files on them and I on my correspondence. After reading at the beginning of his book that he'd written me we checked my files and found a folder on him. I'll enclose what is in it. If you can take it as a reflection of his character, that snotty-nosed kid addressed a man old enough to be his grandfather by his first name. Well, the letter he refers to is not in that file or in the ~~mm~~ file in which I put most of the letters that do not indicate there will be further correspondence. - We believe it may be in my wife's "dead" files, which are in the basement. If she checks them and any are there I'll enclose copies. But at the time of his letters I was already suffering circulatory problems and had difficulty filing so they could be misfiled. (I had the first of those operations that year.)

Moore began practicing an adult signature as a kid, as you'll see. He also tries to palm himself off as an expert on rifles and shooting and he is grossly ignorant and makes numerous mistakes, from Olympus yet. Along with the mistakes on this material is overt dishonesty. His basic one is ridiculous - that the position of the boxes in the alleged sniper's nest is vital to the shooting from there. ~~nonsense.~~ The ~~mm~~ rifle can be moved for aiming in any direction. Yet he boasts about shifting them laterally a fraction of an inch. As soon as I saw his emphasis on those boxes, which appear to have been his major preoccupation, it was apparent that this was at best a stupid and a bad book and likely an egotrip.

In any event, it is probable that when I finish this book I'll be able to answer just about any question you may have about any page *from the annotations.*

For your information, something on which I made only a brief note, nobody in the world has ever been able to duplicate the shooting attributed to Oswald, which Moore says was easy. The Commission got "master" or the very best from the M1A and under much better and easier conditions, after that rifle had been overhauled, ~~no~~ could do it. The FBI didn't even try to but one agent could shoot rapidly from the prone position, the best for rifle shooting when I was a soldier, and the best performance of which I know was by a Baltimore area gun expert, working with the White Laboratories in a CBS-TV reconstruction, Howard Donahue. But he did not duplicate what was attributed to Oswald.

If I don't read more by the next outgoing mail I'll send this.

Best wishes,

W. A. R. V. F.

12/2/90 I've now read the first 92 pages and have fortified my suspicion that whatever his purposes, this is more a ~~big~~ ^{big} against the critics than in support of the Warren Report.

For one who knows the materials, the readily-available information in particular, there is no end to what is ludicrous in Moore's book. I laughed as I thought of one illustration in particular last night. In his utter insanity of Dealey Plaza being the key to it all and his having the all-time record for time spent there and his exploitation of his association with the historical society and its sixth-floor museum, none of which have anything at all to do with the actual and available evidence he ignores or is ignorant of, he created his own mythology about the stacks of cartons of books. In doing this he ignores the photographs taken by the police at the time of the assassination and printed in the Warren Report to have the assassin using a den of about 200 cartons of them. The first time he mentioned the weight of each carton, about 50 pounds, it is enough to tire the assassin. The next time he says the weight was no problem. Consistent with this convolution he says he got permission to take the floor up and examine the floor that had not yet been covered the day of the assassination. and on page 44 he actually says that after they took the plywood floor up and could examine the original floor, there were "marks" that showed them where the assassin has stacked the books, allegedly. He says his reconstruction placed them within a half-inch of the assassination-day marks! Can you imagine that for some six decades no other marks had been made on that floor, or that cardboard boxes did make marks that endured on a wooden floor? It simply is not possible. Not reasonable, either.

After spending a lot of time on these cartons and the alleged moving of them into protective walls by the assassin and by magic, this not being captured on the police photos, he does mention that a new floor was being laid. But he says those moved cartons were stacked toward the middle of the floor. Not the middle, although they were probably placed wherever there was room for them. What did happen and he does not say, although he should have known because the Commission did report it, is that the crew began to lay the new floor on the western half of the sixth floor. They moved all the boxes from that half. and this and this alone accounts for the stacking of extra boxes near the windows on the eastern half of that floor.

His whole business of the boxes of books is preposterous and ridiculous but, as he boasts, it is basic to his book.

Chapter V, "Man on the Run", also turns out to be a diatribe against the critics. Where he mentions the evidence, he picks and chooses what suits his purpose and omits what does, and pretends he has give the reader a full account and they criticize the critics. In this he misrepresents the Commission's evidence and what some of the critics wrote. Referring to what I wrote about Johnny Calvin Brewer, the kid manager of the shoe store near the movie house, after saying that Meagher gave him only half a page, without citation of his source (it is page 70 of my first book), he says "Weisberg (sic) only passing notice." I'll attach that so you can judge for yourself ~~with~~ whether it was only "passing notice" or whether any more was required. In a book that addresses just about all the Commission's basic allegations, and they are many! (His page 64)

Although the Commission depended entirely on the FBI lab for its scientific work in its investigation, Moore makes no mention of this as he picks and chooses and selects and misrepresents. He says the Officer McDonald heard "the snap of the pistol's (it was a revolver, not a pistol) hammer hitting a cartridge casing," he omits the FBI Lab's denial that there is any such mark on any of the bullets, one of which should have discharged if it had been struck. (66)

It is at the top of 67 that he plagiarizes Kurtz to say I believed only the Report's page numbers but he adds what does not exist on government publications that are reprinted, as the Report was in more copies than the government printed, "and the copyright date". He then quotes something I said about the arrest, which happens to be on the same page of my first book. He has pretended that Oswald was sitting on a aisle seat, as he wasn't. What he omits in quotation, only a few words, is one of the reasons the policeman should have

had Oswald moved, because he was between the rows of seats. Here he says that when Oswald raised his arms they held a "fully-loaded revolver" but they didn't, as he himself said at the bottom of page 65, He reached for it only after the cop slugged him. So, what Moore says, is "(a)pparently Weisberg would rather a second policeman had died rather than involve Oswald in a struggle in which he might justifiably be hurt." This is based on the false representation I cite above, that when Oswald raised his hands "in surrender" he ~~would have~~ had "the fully-loaded revolver" in one when he didn't.

at the bottom of page 67 he says that the evidence against Oswald in the Tippit killing was overwhelming because the cartridge cases "had been fired in the handgun." He then says that "one firearms expert positively identified one of the bullets from Tippit's body as having been fired from Oswald's pistol." What he does not say is that there is no chain of possession on the shells, they were ~~not~~ ^{not} marked by any police until that night, when they were taken from a desk drawer in which they've been placed unmarked, that the manufacture of the empty shells does not match the manufacture of the recovered Tippit bullets, and that the FBI Lab could not associate any of the fired bullets with the Oswald weapon. (I think ~~there~~ ^{is} is no mention of the FBI's work in this entire chapter. This is one reason why.)

As I write this I've not finished Chapter VI. I'm to page 93. In his opening graf, aside from its factual errors, he says the "critics swarmed like a group of hungry vultures upon the hapless Commission and its work." Hapless indeed! Can you think of any body whose Report got more attention? What AP provided its many users is the Commission's own summary of its own report, the entire first chapter, word-for-word. And most commentators supported the report. Hungry vultures? Only one book made money, Mark Lane's. Moore has them in the wrong sequence of appearance and he omits Sylvan Fox's. I was broke and I went into debt to print my first book.

He gets carried away with his own invective (76): "(t)he critics have ...been able to make the public believe that almost everyone within the Dallas city limits that Friday had a hand in the assassination..."

What he flaunts, among other things, on the next page, is a basic ^{mis-} understanding of our nation and its principles and the responsibilities of writers in our system: "(t)he real question is how people like Lane, Meagher, Weisberg, Thompson and others could spend their time examining the same source material the Warren Commission relied upon yet arrive at an opposite conclusion." Aside from this being the obligations of writers, including reporters, hasn't he ever been in a courtroom? What else is done in our legal system. What he says can be interpreted as a dedication to an authoritarian system, what any government says is true because the government says it, whether or not it is true.

While it is largely true of the first books, we did no limit ourselves to what the Commission used. I have some in my first book that it had and did not use, more of this in the following books, as I could find it in the Archives, and as he very well knows, I published an enormous amount that the Commission did not have or "rely" on, including what it itself had classified illegally and suppressed.

He describes Lane as a liberal. Lane is counsel for the reactionary and racist Liberty Lobby, of the Willis Carto who published what he hoped would be the American Mein Kampf and who publishes Carto's Spotlight weekly, to which Lane contributes.

As of the time referred to on 80, Hugh Aynesworth was with the Dallas Times Herald. He was not then a Newsweek staffer. Moore's reference to Lane's arrest in Jackson, Miss., "for disturbing the peace" is dirty. He was arrested in those early civil-rights demonstrations, when he was a liberal. On the same page he has another error about Lane, saying that the Commission "denied him the spotlight." Lane appeared before the Commission twice. The second time, at his insistence, it was the only public hearing the Commission held.

He says on 85 that the photos and X-rays of the JFK autopsy were "unavailable" to the Commission. This is a lie, as he knows from my Post Mortem. The Commission declined

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to look at them. In one of the executive sessions, the suppressed transcript of which I published and Moore has, Rankin did say they had the pictures. He repeats below on this page that they were "withheld" from the Commission.

He then says that "in the midst of the controversy" about the first of the books "two of the autopsy doctors examined the material", meaning the film "and stood by what they testified to before the Commission. Their report was not released for another year. I print it in facsimile in Post Mortem, which Moore has, and it in fact completely destroys the Report and Moore's single-assassin theory because it discloses as I recall five bullet fragments in JFK's neck. Impossible for the supposed single-bullet theory.

On 86 he refers to Penn Jones as "a small town Texas newspaper owner." He hadn't been for at least a decade.

On 87 he claims that Earlene Roberts did have ~~an~~ an autopsy at Barkland but whether she did or didn't isn't established by the source he cites.

On this page he says that one of Phil Willis's pictures may have been "the most important photos relating to the assassination," but he forgets about Zapruder. He later says it is. The fifth of Willis' may be, but I doubt Moore goes into that, although he knows it. (The film between the sprocket holes in the Zapruder film, not shown on projection or the usual copying, makes it clear that Willis took that picture earlier than the Commission says and when Oswald could not have fired the Commission's first shot.)

12/3 I'm sorry about my typing but I can't do anything about that.

I found your letter and I thank you for your kind comment. I appreciate it.

Before resuming where I left off, from time to time when I'm walking my mind returns to this book and to Moore and I wonder why he really did the book and how utterly shameless he is in it and this morning, in thinking about his selectively dishonest and fanciful reconstruction involving Officer Baker and TSM Manager Truly it occurred to me that you can make your own independent assessment of his credibility and his honesty if you read what I wrote about it in Whitewash, pp 36-8. (It is in the mail to you.) Until then, a clear and simple means of taking my word is what he omits, that as Truly and Baker were running up the stairs, Truly was well ahead of Baker and when he noticed that Baker was not behind him he returned to find Baker and Oswald inside the room. So, this means that Oswald had to have been there early enough for Truly not to have seen him as he went down the stairs Truly was climbing. Which, obviously, is impossible and in itself enough to destroy the official story. His and the Summit Group's concept of non-fiction and scholarship not including an index, I can't without going back refer you to his pages. (Who, by the way, is this Summit Group? Like White's Matsu?) ...

He begins page 89, "Maryland poultry farmer Harold Weisberg has weighed into the controversy with a half-dozen heavy hitters, all books of the Whitewash series." (Two are not.) actually, I didn't just wade in - I began it. Whitewash was the first book on the Warren Report. But his crack about me being a poultry farmer, cribbed from Lane, who thought it cute in his campaign to deprecate all others, hasn't been true since JFK was assassinated. I was liquidating the farm then. However much or little he knew about me, he knew from my first book that I'd been a Senate investigator and editor. I don't resent his crack and in fact I'm amused by it. It provides a measure of Moore. Who apparently didn't understand that people can say of him that he runs a racket of "motivating" people, so where does he get off writing a book, more a book on so technical a matter.

Next he says that I spent five of my 224 pages detailing the moving of boxes in the southeast and northwest corners of the sixth floor." His footnote, however, is to but a single page of a book he does not identify, his practise being to cite "Weisberg" followed by a page number, even though he began by saying I'd published six books. Because there was no stacking of books in the northwest corner and because I was certain I did not said there had been, I skimmed those two, not five pages, and there is no mention

of what he made up and apparently attributed to me in a crooked effort to have me validating his invention. There are two pages of photos in the appendix on this. If you do read beginning on page 33 you'll have your own opinion of what he then says on the same page, "Weisberg, unsatisfied that the boxes had been moved (which I go into in great detail) and and could not be exactly replaced (which + also went into in some detail, the very point I was making) claims the official reconstruction of the crime is false."

He next goes into a mistake I made and informed him in a letter ^{in 1968} I made, with a brief explanation of how I made that error in that letter. He likes to cite his correspondence with me but fails to in this instance. Without bothering to learn whether his explanation is factual - I see he has my letter on the next page - I'll add what he omits for your understanding and I don't have to reread my work of so long ago to know. Beginning as I told him, I also could not see a road stripe in the Atgens picture, as I later learned but could not detect from that angle, because the car was atop it. This second book, by the way, was completed before any other than Epstein's appeared. The reason there appeared to be one less road stripe than there was is because Liebeler placed the photographer incorrectly, placing him where there could have been only four, rather than five stripes. This was further complicated by two developments both of which made photointelligence virtually impossible. Well, there was a third. Elm Street was repaved when it did not appear to require it and the road stripes were not placed where they had been and the signs on the north side of Elm Street were moved. I do go into that in the second book. The third one also made photointelligence based on the Kapruder film impossible. All the background in it was changed by trimming shrubbery, etc. Rankin did ask the city not to do this but the police not having cautioned and the lawyers for the city not having said a word, someone just decided to trim it all up, so if I recall correctly, it was done before that demon investigator, Rankin, or the fabled investigators of the FBI and Secret Service, asked that it not be done.

His footnote on 89 is, "Whitewash literally came from Weisberg's typewriter. Not being able to find a publisher. Weisberg published his typewritten original. The book would have been easier to read had all the keys struck evenly." (His emphasis)

It literally did not come from my typewriter. It was my wife's. Did you ever hear or an original book manuscript typed single-spaced?

While it is true that as the very first thing in my first book says there was great reluctance to publish a book critical of the Warren Report, and I may well have set a record for rejections without a single editorial criticism of it, what made me decide to publish it myself is the terms stipulated by W.W. Norton for publishing it. In effect it required that I allege what had made others wealthier and better-known, that the government was responsible for the assassination. Months earlier Kennedy was to have published it but there was a snafu on the clerical level and when I had started to publish it myself, ^{Stuart} Stuart, personally, phoned, having changed his mind, and wanted to publish it. My point here is that Moore, who could have learned the actualities if he'd wanted to be accurate, referred to say what he wanted to believe or to have believed. And the book was published in Italy, not from my "original" and had the mail not been intercepted it would have been published in Germany and had the sprockets been efficient and effective it would have been published in England. There wasn't a single editorial rejection and as soon as the book was available those who put the mystery-writers' award on entered it. I had nothing to do with that and hadn't even known about it. It was runner-up for the ~~WMA~~ award in 1966.

I can't tell you with any accuracy how many letters I got after the book was out but there were thousands and I continue to get them. In all I've gotten between \$25,000 and 20,000 letters from strangers. I can't remember a single one that complained ~~me~~ about the irregularity in the typing. There were a couple from older people regretting the small size of the characters. The reason is simple: I was broke and my wife had worn that typewriter out on the research that went into the book and additional research before the book was out, at least a third of a million words in a great rush.

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He continues his attack onto the next page, where he says that from the Zapruder film "one can see the limousine was far enough down Elm Street for Kennedy to have been a clear target from the sixth floor window." This in his comment on where the car was at frame 255 of the Zapruder film - ^{not at the time the first shot was fired.} He's managed to go half-way through his book without any mention of the official solution or where and when the shots were allegedly fired. How definitive can he get? What he seems to be trying to do here is to claim that at any point and at any time, from the Zapruder film Oswald could have shot JFK. Which, of course, is false. That liveoak tree sometimes blocked his vision.

As of the time he was writing about, nobody had a copy of the Zapruder film, which he got when he was a kid ⁽¹⁹⁷⁰⁾ and apparently believed always was available. He says I was unable to locate Altgens in the first sentence below his quotation of me saying that I had learned of the error based on the Commission's mislocating of Altgens when it was possible for me to make that study. He apparently expected all readers to be uncritical of what he said, didn't care or just has a compulsion ^{of my second} to be ^{the} artificial of others.

His crack on the paperback edition, Dell had turned the first book down three times before coming to me for it and under that contract I had first rights to the sequel, which it also rejected. ⁽¹⁹⁷⁴⁾ I asked for editing, was promised it, and Dell didn't change a word. Not even in the Introduction you'll soon be able to read. ^{It came in my file the day as soon as it saw how well the first sold - and pushed it.}

He must be enjoying this because he continues it onto 91: "Weisberg's latter day claim to fame among the critics has been his ability to pry classified documents out of the archives. But even those who think tenderly of him admit that very little new or useful information has been gleaned from the documents that Weisberg has spent years obtaining." At this point he has a footnote to which I'll return. I'm taking this time to give you a means of evaluating him and his book and as I said earlier, to make a record.

I can think of only a single document I got from the Archives that was classified. HE IS GROSSLY IGNORANT OF MY WORK AND WHAT I've done and classification is a quite negligible factor. The only things classified, and they were classified illegally, that I got from the Archives ^{was} the Commission's executive session transcripts. But I got about a third of a million pages of once-withheld and almost entirely never classified records from the executive agencies, by FOIA litigation.

Moore, from this book, would not recognize what is useful or even information if it hit him in the face. I was thinking while walking this morning that a few of the things I have convenient on my desk for when some civic organization asks me to speak for 20-30 minutes might interest you and give you an idea of what the "investigation" really was and wasn't. I'll try to remember to enclose them and you can decide whether they are at all useful in a representative society and in telling the people something about their government. With regard to his crack, there are about 200 pages of these once-withheld records printed in facsimile in Post Mortem, which he has. Reminds me, he also has Whitewash IV, with more than 100 pp of a single executive session transcript that most people regard as useful. To say Nothing of the shorter one in Post Mortem. If you know anyone who has a copy, read it beginning on page 475 and see if that is in your opinion useful, for it may illuminate Moore and his book, as a person and as a work.

The footnote reads: "Weisberg made another error, this one picked up by the New York Times. He found an FBI report that inaccurately cited the speed of the Zapruder camera as twenty-four frames per second. Without bothering to check the actual camera, Weisberg rushed the information into print. The camera can't be set to operate at twenty-four frames per second." His footnote 80 to which this is cited reads, "Weisberg, 184." This is hardly scholarly or "definitive" writing.

He is referring to the second of my six books he seems to cite as "Weisberg" only, and on that page I have a facsimile reproduction of that Dallas FBI report. The question in the very early days when I was writing this book was whether or not Zapruder had exposed any of his film at other than 18 fps. If exposed faster, for example, on projection you have slow motion. Now this again gets to Moore's honesty and integrity, personally and

as a writer, as I'll get to. I do not remember that the New York Times printed this but it did not "pick it up." About a year after the book was out Lifton wrote the Times along Moore's line and actually sent me a copy. Before then Lifton knew, from my very next book, which was out the end of May, 1967, as Moore also knew before he wrote this, because he got it from me, the history of the withholding of that camera and how the coming appearance on Whitewash II forced the government to get the camera and put it in the Archives. The FBI refused to keep it as did the Commission, so Zapruder, as we did not know, had given it to Bell & Howell. Perhaps it was not exactly a gift, if I understand Zapruder. Anyway, there is a full accounting in the third book, which is on the suppression of the pictures.

So, as Moore knew and as Lifton knew, the camera was not accessible. What better basis can a "definitive" writer have for saying, "without bothering to check the actual camera"?

Next Moore goes after Link Thompson, not a friend of mine, with undiminished dishonesty, obfuscation and virtuoso display of ignorance, all misleading the reader. He says what is not so, that Thompson "does not take into account that the very Zapruder film frames he believes show the hit on Connally also show Connally leaning backward, thus altering the angle of the bullet through his body." He does not mean the angle through the body, which would not have been altered. I do not know how much you know about the official account so I'll begin with an explanation. The official solution is that at Frame 210 of the film and only at that 1/18th of a second Oswald fired a shot that struck JFK in the flesh to his right of the neck and near it, went through his body without striking bone, then entered Connally's under the right armpit, smashing five inches of the fourth rib or four of the fifth before exiting under his right nipple, thence smashing his right wrist before entering and lodging in his thigh above the knee. Instead of trying to show what he cannot show by any fact or evidence, all of this being pretty obviously impossible, he quotes that old spook recruited, without identifying him, John Sparrow, warden of All Souls, Oxford. (Who, by the way, first blocked publication of my first book in England in 1965 without informing that publisher of his relations with British intelligence, which had cozy relations with our own. Sparrow is thus one of the oldest, in both senses, of the apologist for the Warren report.) You can decide for yourself whether there is any substance in what Sparrow wrote. But what Moore says means nothing at all and even if it did, it could not mean that any alteration in Connally's position would have made the gee and how, up and down trajectory of the official mythology at all possible.

Again raising a question of Moore's personal and if it is justified by this book, his professional integrity, he fails to tell the reader that from the first Connally insisted that he was not struck by the first bullet, which he heard, and that is what caused his motion. He could not have heard the bullet that hit him and bullets are faster than sound, at least most, including the imputed one.

"The success of his (Thompson's) book led to his appointment as Life magazine's consultant on the Zapruder film." Moore not only makes it up, he doesn't even think when doing it. What need did Time/Life have for an expert on the Zapruder film in 1967, four years after the assassination, and what made the philosopher professor such an expert? Time/Life needed outside help with pictures? It was Thompson's theft of copies of enlarged positives made from the Z film that made his book possible. He took them from Life and was back teaching when he wrote his book.

Here Moore also says that the Zapruder film is the most important piece of evidence in the case, but that is true only for one who knows nothing about evidence and it is true of the use the Commission made of it but it is not the most important "evidence" in the case. He shows remarkable "understanding" of what makes an authentic expert in saying of Link that "access to the original film is what gave him almost unlimited expertise." There is real evidence in the original film that this man of unlimited expertise did not see.

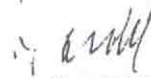
This is as far as I've read so I'll stop now and read and correct it so I can mail it.

I am aware that this may be more if not also other than you expected but as I said, I want to make a record for the future and you are, I think, new to the subject. You may also be your paper's in-house expert, or expert-to-be.

I don't know whether your morgue or library has any of my books or if the paper wants them. In the past it has been willing to print stories not in accord with what I regard as the official mythology. If you do, we have a small supply of books that are slightly damaged that we do not seal. I know we have the second but I don't without checking know if we have others. If you want it or any others that are damaged, and I won't charge for, let me know.

I do think it would help your understanding if you'd read the executive session transcript I mention above that is in Post Mortem. It is only about 14 pages. If that is interesting, the one in Whitewash IV is much longer but in part along the same line. It will, I think, give you a better understanding of the Commission and its work and conclusions and how they were reached and to a degree why.

Best wishes,



Harold Weisberg

There is a Summit Group and a Summit Publishing at the address in the book. They are presumed, from my bookstore source after checking Bowker, to be small publishers.

If you would like any explanation of the enclosed records please ask. Note that the first, Dallas record, was indexed and filed before Oswald was charged.

Renfro to SAC, 11/22/63
 Gemberling 8/5/64
 Newsom to SAC, 11/25/63
 Rosen to Belmont, 11/26/64
 Katz to "oyar
 DeLoach to chr, 11/25/64
 DeLoach to Mohr, 6/4/64
 Damage control tickler