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April 19, 1989

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, MD 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Please forgive me for not responding sooner to the letter you sent to the President of the McGraw-Hill Book Company, Mr. Paul A. Wrede, which was received by McGraw-Hill on February 24, 1989. As I wrote you recently, I have been inundated with correspondence, far more than I can handle adequately, given all my other commitments.

I believe our misunderstanding has arisen over a point of language. When, on page 414 of my book, I stated that in 1979 "Jack Wasserman foraged in Mr. Weisberg's files" I did not intend to give the impression that Mr. Wasserman was physically present in your basement searching through your FBI files. I admit that the word "forage" was a poor choice on my part. It was also wrong for me to use the expression "Mr. Weisberg's files." I should have written: "the files that were released as a result of Mr. Weisberg's Freedom of Information Act requests."

I have therefore made the following change in the text that will be reflected in all future editions of the book. Page 414, second to last paragraph, line 3:

Jack Wasserman made use of the FBI files
that had been released to the public as
a result of Mr. Weisberg's Freedom of
Information Act requests.

I can assure you that my intention in writing the paragraph in question was not to be critical of you.

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It was also not "a deliberate lie" as you characterized my remarks in your letter to McGraw-Hill.

In this connection, I was gratified to learn that our mutual acquaintance, Kennedy assassination researcher, Paul Hoch, shares this belief. In his letter to me of April 8, Mr. Hoch wrote: "I told Harold your reference on p. 414 does not seem to be critical of Weisberg, but I gather he takes it that way. Your point is simply that Wasserman and Marcello were concerned about the HSCA and FBI findings."

I wish to assure you also that it was indeed "an accidental thoughtlessness" that I did not send a copy of my book to you. I was given a limited number of copies of the book by my publisher and I used them all to give to close friends, members of my family, and to people in the media who were in a position to promote and publicize the book. Many people who had helped me, such as yourself, were clamoring for the book and I had no books to send them. You are not the first person to be angry at me in this regard.

I know it sounds terribly self-important, but I was so busy travelling around the country promoting the book (two coast-to-coast trips) and assembling material for an Afterword to be included in future editions, that I fell very far behind in my correspondence. I am only just beginning to catch up.

I regret very much that you were offended by my remarks on page 414 and by my slowness in responding to your objections. You were a tremendous help to me in researching the book and I will always be grateful to you for your invaluable assistance.

I want to close this letter on a positive note, calling your attention to a richly deserved compliment I paid you on page 245 of my book. Referring in paragraph one to the questionable evidence used by the FBI and the Dallas Police to incriminate Oswald in their rush to wrap up the Kennedy assassination case, I wrote: "A masterful expose of these manipulations, fabrications, and

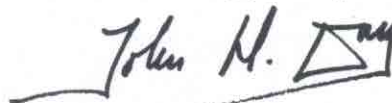
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suppressions of evidence may be found in Harold Weisberg's WHITEWASH books."

I would prefer that you remember my references to you in MAFIA KINGFISH by that statement and not by the instance of unclear and misleading language you cited in your February 24 letter to my publisher.

With every good wish,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John H. Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" at the end.

John H. Davis

JHD/st

cc: Lisa Frost
William P. Farley, Esq.
John G. Wrede

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nearly eight years after the House Select Committee on Assassinations issued its finding of probable conspiracy and voiced its suspicions of the possible involvement in the crime of Jimmy Hoffa, Santos Trafficante, and Carlos Marcello, one cannot help but conclude that the United States government either does not want to know who was behind the assassination of the President or, at best, does not want the nation and the world to know who was behind the crime.

It was one thing to tell the world that an unbalanced loner killed the President and was then quickly executed for his crime by a patriotic citizen taking the law into his own hands, and quite another to admit that one of the most powerful crime families in the nation had been able to change the course of American history by violent means and get away with it.

What was Carlos Marcello's reaction to the House Select Committee on Assassinations' publicly declared suspicion that he or his "crime family or organization" might have played a role in the assassination of President Kennedy?

There is solid evidence that he was quite disturbed, for in the summer of 1979, when those findings were finally published by the government printing office, he apparently assigned the matter to his most trusted attorney, the brilliant Jack Wasserman, for investigation. Wasserman immediately set about obtaining the available FBI files on the Kennedy assassination, which included the extensive files on David Ferrie and some documents, but not all, on the allegations of Eugene De Laparra and SV T-1, as well as the Edward Becker story of Marcello's threat to kill Kennedy.

These files, amounting to well over 220,000 pages of documents, had been obtained through lengthy and costly Freedom of Information Act lawsuits brought against the Justice Department by Harold Weisberg, noted Kennedy assassination researcher and author of several books relating to the assassination. They were the files the Assassinations Committee should have had at the beginning of its investigation but did not receive until too late. Now they were being put at the disposal of Carlos Marcello's attorney.

From correspondence between Wasserman and Weisberg that I have examined, it appears that throughout the summer and fall of 1979 Jack Wasserman foraged in Weisberg's files in an attempt to retrieve every FBI document that could relate to the possibility of his client's having been involved in the assassination.

Because of this frantic response of Marcello's principal attorney made use of the FBI files that had been released to the public as a result of Harold Weisberg's Freedom of Information Act requests.

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