

5/6/71

Dear Mr. Durkin,

I've been a way for six tiring days, leave again in the a.m., ~~and~~ have a large stack of mail, and am bone weary. I answer your letter of the 4th, if in haste, because it was helpful to me and to truth for you to send me the advance on Kaplan's crap and because of the changed tone of your letter.

This is not to say I'll let you off the hook, for it would be unfriendly were I to.

The enclosures, as they relate to me, are inaccurate or worse. They are also selective. For example, the late Bert Andrews, writing in the Herald Tribune, quoted J. Edgar Hoover in an entirely different context. How is ~~it~~ it test now of you ever find any quote that? Were you to dig and probe and get to the bottom of that rotten mess, you'd have trouble holding the views you seem to, it is that dishonest, that really rotten. Or is it that you all have a common, dishonest propaganda-minded source? The only deviations I recall in any of this retelling of the effluent is the individual literary windbreaking of those who feel called upon to add what they may regard as their own unique genius.

I suggest you begin by asking if the "friendlier tone" begins with me or with you. I intend no unfriendliness to anyone, but what kind of reaction do you expect to what you did? Your explanation is nonsense. Read it again. It is simply that you elected not to believe me and I am the only one who told you the truth. What you have sent is is self-contradictory. Did not even this make you at all curious? Did it not make you wonder who spoke the truth? Why should I have taken the time to lie to you? Was it not easier to ignore you? You cannot have done original research and felt that the "documentation" about that Dies staff "appeared substantial". Aside from the Andrews (Republican) story, there is the withdrawal of the action, also reported, yet the law required no reason at all for such firing. The color of eyes, the merest whim, was enough. Yet this defamation will never die, and at some point, in order to kill it, I may have to do what I am reluctant to do, file a libel action. Establishing malice would be no problem. It would have been child's play with your writing (which, incidently, was sent me by one of my many conservative friends).

Ideological reason do not divide us. They blind you. You can't put me in any single ideological bag. My beliefs vary with issues. As a matter of fact, I've never had a single large liberal or radical audience and my best and most responsive audiences have been conservative. You have no idea how many to-me nuts of the right I've befriended, as well as those who are, in the genuine sense, conservative. These range from Eugene Bradley (one of the nastiest, most unappreciative dogs I've ever met) to H.L.Hunt.

That business of "Soviet agents" is rubbish. However, I was what today would be called an unregistered British agent before we got into World War II, and at the suggestion of the Department of Justice. Can you possibly reconcile the two?

The reviews are welcome. I think it possible the Times may do something about that nastiness by Kaplan (if I am what to you is a "liberal", or we engaged in cutting each other up? What is he?). I know something about Kaplan....On the POST MORTEM, I have to restrict distribution to those I can trust to neither lift nor misuse this original work. When I have completed the missing third, I will seek commercial publication. The limited editions are to protect my rights, something I would hope you would respect. But after you see it, you will have cause to reconsider your misconceptions, especially about "liberals".

Please try and understand that I am aging at an accelerated pace, into too much, beset with all sorts of problems, including of health and finances, and needless correspondence is a burden I must shun. Because you are young, I have tried to make you think and this to help.

Sincerely,

Henry P. Durkin - Box 1537 - FDR Station- New York NY 10022

May 4, 1971

Mr. Harold Weisberg  
Route 8  
Frederick, MD 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Thanks very much for your kind letter of April 29th. I appreciate the friendlier tone very much and I hope that, although we can still disagree about the theories on the assassinations, that we can communicate. Thanks again.

I will certainly be sending you further reviews of your book as I see them. I enclose a copy of the NY Times story of today on Ray's attempted prison break for your files.

Is your Stanley Ross the same person as is/was the publisher of the Spanish language paper in New York, El Diario-La Prensa? That's the only Stanley Ross that I can recall hearing about in recent years. I also recall something about a Cuban being put in a mental hospital in Queens some years back--I believe the story appeared in the National Enquirer. I'll have to dig through a pile of clippings but I'm sure I can find it. Do you want a copy?

Getting to the photo I sent you--it was a picture of Charles Manson that appeared in the San Francisco Examiner and Chronicle on March 21st along with other pictures of Manson. Enclosed is the full set of photos they published. The similarity struck me that I wanted to get your opinion on it. I don't believe that Manson was the man in Dealy Plaza, just that the resemblance was a bit startling.

I never intended at all to ever libel you, Mr. Weisberg and I am sorry if that was what it appeared to be. The documentation about the Martin Dies incident appeared substantial and I thought your reaction to it was was a case of sour grapes. I chose to believe the documentation rather than you. If, the newspaper stories are in error as you say, then not only do I owe you a deep apology, but so does every one else that used this documentation. In all fairness to you, I must admit that your books do have much valid material and I found a great deal of interesting items in them in doing research on the assassination of President Kennedy. I don't agree with you on all things, though. My view is from the conservative side of the political fence, while yours appears to be liberal. Fundamental ideological reasons, therefore, divide us--we each interpret facts and situations differently, in the light of our political beliefs. I try to do so as honestly as I can.

I ran across two items recently that may interest you--one, a story that appeared in the Washington Times-Herald on September 21, 1947, mentioning you in connection with ~~you~~ "Soviet agents." I only have the first part of the clipping, so I don't know what the rest of the story says. A reference to this appeared in the Congressional Record for 2/29/68 and I send you a copy of that also. I have no way of knowing if the allegation is true and would appreciate your reply. In addition, America's Future newsletter refers to the Dies incident without mentioning your name and I enclose a copy of that, too.

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Mr. Harold Weisberg

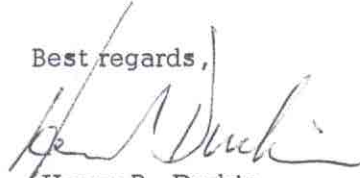
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By the way, have you already published the two parts on the autopsy that are listed among your books in the beginning of FRAME UP? Are they the same format as the WHITEWASH series and priced at \$4.95? If so, I'd like to order copies and will send you my check as soon as I hear from you about availability and price.

Thanks again for writing. Let's keep in touch.

Best regards,



Henry P. Durkin