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July 26, 1979

Dear Harold:

Thank you for your most recent letter, which I received today. As per normal, while I disagree with much of what you say, I enjoyed your stern incantations.

I'd like to bring some information to your attention regarding some alleged "activity" of yours that I was recently informed of by two usually reliable sources. While both independently stated that the information was correct, I thought I'd write and ask you directly whether the "information" is true, false, or somewhere in between.

Essentially, I've been told that New Orleans Mafia leader Carlos Marcello has recently made representations (through his Washington attorney and representative) to major media outlets that you have been voluntarily enlisted to defend him against any charges that he was in any way involved in having President Kennedy murdered.

According to this information, Marcello's D.C. attorney, Jack Wasserman, has been informing reporters and editors that "the most respected Warren Commission critic, Harold Weisberg, has contacted us" to voice his firm belief in Marcello's "innocence" and the "total lack" of any evidence or information that would raise suspicion about his possible complicity. According to these reports, Wasserman has been "quoting" excerpts from a communication you allegedly provided to him on Carlos Marcello's behalf, and is representing you as "the best authority on Mr. Marcello's total non-involvement." One source stated that it was his impression - based upon what Wasserman has told editors - that you perhaps "had been retained" by Marcello to work in some way on his behalf, vis a vis the Kennedy case.

In any event, I thought I would bring these allegations to your immediate attention, in view of the potential significance of them.

I hope they are not true and that you would not be used - wittingly or unwittingly - for such purposes; particularly in this instance.

You have stated that you were disturbed over the circulation of information regarding your relative, Mafia associate Willie Weisberg, and his avowed wish to formulate a Kennedy assassination. You wrote that you thought this Weisberg-Weisberg "connection," however distant, might be used by your would-be

detractors to draw "suspicions" about your objectivity or committment in considering potential Mafia complicity in President Kennedy's murder. Need I comment that reports or allegations of your purported assistance or aid on behalf of Carlos Marcello and his attorney make suspicions about the Willie Weisberg "connection" seem like rather small potatoes.

I know you will want to respond to these allegations and see to it that you are not being used in a way you are unaware of, if that is the case. That Jack Wasserman has apparantly been saying these things about you to the news media is, I believe, true. The specifics - beyond what I've recounted here - are not clear. I hope you can clear this up.

You might guess that my general opinion of Jack Wasserman is not all that dissimiliar to my opinion of his client or boss. Investigators have long reported that Wasserman enjoys something beyond the Constitutionally prescribed lawyer/client relationship with Marcello, and there are reports that he is identified by some law enforcement bodies as a part of the actual Marcello organization. I will keep my estimation of him private, and would certainly note that he has never been convicted of a serious crime, as have other fellow Marcello attorneys (G. Wray Gill, second degree murder or manslaughter*; Cecil Burglass, tax fraud; David Levy, bribery**).

At the same time, I would also note that Finding 15 of the Third Interim Report of the Kefauver Senate Committee (1951) is at least worth keeping in mind when one considers Wasserman's legal work on behalf of Marcello and other reported clients such as Willie Weisberg's superior, Angelo Bruno:

"15. A major question of legal ethics has arisen in that there are a number of lawyers in different parts of the country whose relations to organized criminal groups and individual mobsters pass the line of reasonable representation. Such lawyers become true "mouthpieces"

* Clarification of the specific crime committed has proven difficult to reconstruct, as Gill was relatively young at the time, and the official records of it were later mysteriously destroyed; reportedly by orders of the Marcello organization.

** One of the first such convictions under the Omnibus organized crime statutes; despite a colorful defense provided by Levy's attorney, Jim Garrison.

for the mob. In individual cases, they have become integral parts of the criminal conspiracy of their clients."

In any event, I look forward to hearing your side to these stories. I certainly know that erroneous allegations are a more than common occurrence in the Kennedy case.

In your letter you requested that I provide you with various areas of information or citations regarding the presence of Marcello employees or "associates" at the 544 Camp Street Building, as well as other information relating to David Ferrie's reported activities there, and the possible Oswald connection therein.

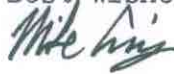
Needless to say, if you have in fact been enlisted in some way on Marcello's behalf, I certainly would not care to respond to your request for such public information, nor would I think such future contact is appropriate; regardless of your longtime status as a respected Warren Commission critic.

Likewise, if these allegations about you are essentially accurate, I think I would prefer not to forward copies of the HSCA reports to you; preferring to let Wasserman and his client absorb the cost of furnishing you such material, if they or you desire.

In any event, as you can see, these allegations inexorably raise some pretty ugly issues and appearances. I look forward to hearing your response, and hope you know how much I would share your contempt for Marcello and his representatives if they have caused this information to circulate about you erroneously. Of that much, at least, they are entirely capable.

Sorry to be the bearer of bad news,

Best wishes,



Mike Ewing