

Release

Mr. Jim Kostman
Assassination Inf. Bureau
1322 18 St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

1/9/73

Dear Mr. Kostman,

Your letter of the 6th requires the kind of answer that has the AIB and its ilk regarding me as a cantankerous old man.

A month ago, after your AIB gurus were all over the tube with what they represented as fact, I wrote and asked for a few records in the belief they could be used in several of my current FOIA cases.

After a month I'm told this is impossible because your people are so important, so completely indispensable and, as it comes across so entirely unique this kind of thing is quite below them.

Unfortunately the federal courts do not regard the AIB as having the importance it attributes to itself.

In this and in your asking me to finance you there is still another self-portrait of the AIB.

I recall no single bit of assistance of any kind when the AIB was quite literally stealing my work and representing it as its own, when it was ripping of the collegiate mind while it dipped in the collegiate pocket with such thoroughness and such utter irresponsibility it was virtually impossible for anyone else to be heard. Indeed, who of college age could be attracted to truth and fact with all the fabrications the AIB foisted off on a trusting people. Including after it knew better. The tales for which AIB was paid - who could compete? And who benefitted, aside from those in AIB who made names for themselves? A bigger ~~add~~ assist to the spookery, which did not have to do for itself what the AIB did for it, I can't imagine.

I'd be interested in knowing what one use AIB has made or will make of any of the recently-released FBI records that can better serve a public purpose than getting them into a federal court record, whether or not the FOIA suit is influenced by them. (And of course AIB was much too important to spend any of those many fat lecture fees in helping with this FOIA work going back for years, to that day of decency when there was no AIB.)

I suspect that Katz and Glesby did not respond not because they are either so extra-important or so much busier than anyone else in the work, including cantankerous old men but because consistent with their long stinking past of misrepresentation and fabrication their representations on Good Morning America were not completely factual.

So I am "welcome to come aboard," and I am "encouraged to contribute financially." How generous you crooks, parasites and disinformers are. But do you think you can risk this kind of contamination? I'm kind of addicted to fact and I'm inalterably opposed to irresponsible theorizing. I'm a little too old to fear being tainted or corrupted by whipless-snappers but do you think that what the AIB has been can co-exist with reality?

And who do you suppose has more than half of the total number of FOIA requests the FBI says has compelled this action? AIB and its backers? Who do you suppose has kept the FBI in court so steadily on this subject (and others) for so many years? AIB? If so you've been entirely out of character in keeping it so quiet.

And what do you think I'll do with a few lousy pages of records when I'm almost 65 and not in good health? Do you for a minute think I need anything for writing, that if I never saw another sheet of official records I could not work an inordinately long day for another two decades?

I regret very much having received so arrogant, so self-important, so mindless a letter from you. Someone, perhaps Paul, said you were different, not the typical AIB type. I would have liked to have thought better of you.

There are not very many of you who do not know enough about me - my age, the state of my health, where to find my work to steal and capitalize on, and the fact that I have had no regular income and no real financial assistance in all these years of work on this subject. Where were you and all the others less scrupulous in AIB when I was fighting to the Supreme Court the case that opened these files by leading to the amending of FOIA? Where was your help, singular or plural? Or all those other cases? Where, indeed, were those who now finance you, now that it is not so declassifiable a field? Your most eminent refused to be part of the FOIA fights to open the records as he did with anything else - except the childishly irresponsible.

There were those in my generation who found the world less than they would have liked it to be. Some of us were what is now known as activists. There were fewer of us. Resistance was greater then (with some of the change perhaps in part due to some of us and what we undertook). But by and large we lived and fought with principle, in the belief that he who would teach the pope religion should go to church himself. We did not then equate morality with the zippered fly. We also knew the meaning of such words as ethics and honor and decency. And somehow we were able to get a little bit done and to make it a little easier for others, later, to make their efforts, without stealing from each other and without coming to believe that nothing or nobody else mattered.

Except for excess and irresponsibility, for the ^{ing}causes of great and unnecessary tragedies from some of their methods, I know of nothing the AIB generation added to national efforts to improve society or the world.

The personal cost of such struggles then was much greater. Those who paid these costs made it much easier for those who followed, save for those who were irrational.

So come off it, man. Put yourself and yourselves in perspective.

Fortunately AIB people have not phoned me often. However, there have been times when they occupied me for hours at a time. (Not that it did any good. They knew a good thing when they had it.) In all these years - and I repeat not for myself personally - while the AIB was stealing my work and not even asking if it could - I never once asked it for anything. Now that it is impossible for me to get to the FBI's reading room and after they represented themselves as having obtained certain information, I did ask Katz and/or Oglesby for copies. You reply, if it is a real reply, a month later. And you also invite me to phone you (plural). For what? "...questions about the documents..." Do you for a minute think I would take an AIB interpretation of any record before a federal court? Or use it in my own writing?

But if you who are so important and so busy have time to talk on the phone how is it that you also do not have time to xerox a few pages?

Don't bother sending me any copies. Or calling me ever again.

Wherever I am in this, whatever my work may have been or be worth, it is in spite of the AIB and what it represents, not from any aid, no matter how indirect, from either it or what it represents. I think I'll be happier if it and I have nothing to do with each other. And if henceforth when it wants to use my work it asks my assent, as it to now never has.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

1/9/78

Dear Paul,

Whatever may have been in his mind I find Jim Kostman's letter of the 6th offensive and insufferably arrogant.

If Lil does any copying before the next mail I'll enclose a copy.

After a month they declined to give me a few pages for possible use in court. Instead they tell me to take still more time and ask this of you, that this is their mechanism. And because others they describe as researchers like this arrangement I also must.

Naturally, this being their will, their self-concept, all the courts will stand still for them and their machinery.

If nothing else they have again given me what I take as a dependable evaluation of their scale of values and importances. These do not coincide with mine.

These are still the people who, with sane, fixed paranoia slightly improved with a generous sprinkling of bullshit on an entire college generation.

I should have known better than to ask either Katz or the Yankee-Cowboy theorizer for a few pages of records. I'll not repeat the mistake.

They also had better not repeat some of theirs. I just might have a little fun if they give me the opportunity.

I would like to compare the actual records with their representation of them on Good Morning America. I'm sure that Katz was farthier out than Oglesby and that Oglesby was not faithful to fact.

This is the kind of thing that hurts. It never helps. It besmirches us all. And it is of use to the specks. I've already seen how they use it.

I want nothing to do with them. There can't be, for me, any way of spending time that does not hold better prospect.

Jim has asked me to let him know if I hear when the next batch is due. He is still suffering the respiratory infection. He is working but it has slowed him down much and put him even farthier behind in everything. If you do hear please let one of us know promptly. If it is close to the scheduled time, phone would be appreciated. If I hear I'll let you know.

In my letter to Kostman I refer to Mailer only. However, I've just looked at their advisory board. I see four others to whom I once turned when the climate was different. All then declined. When Hobbs was doing his series he neither mentioned nor spoke to me and I'm not counting him as one of the four. Dellinger, great man of principle that he is, allowed Calandria to talk him out of reviewing Whitewash. D B then had a magazine.

Sincerely yours,



Assassination Information Bureau

1322 18th STREET NW, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 (202) 857-0017

January 6, 1977

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Harold Weisberg
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Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Alas, if we had the budget and the time, we could distribute those FBI documents we are copying to the appropriate researchers. But we don't; so we are arranging through Paul Hoch to have them distributed. A number of other researchers have agreed to this arrangement, and it is just about to move into high gear. You are welcome to come aboard, and you are encouraged to contribute financially to the effort.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about the documents, don't hesitate to call me. We can't send out copies ourselves to individuals (Paul will do that), but we have read a great deal of the files and will discuss them freely.

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Sincerely,

Jim Kostman