

Dear Bud,

Knowing you and your interests as I do, I must apologize for not anticipating that at some time you would phone me as you did this evening. Were it not for the time required by my own work and the limitations imposed by last year's acute thrombophlebitis, perhaps I would have been prepared and not now be writing this without the opportunity of either organizing what I want to say or really searching my extensive files to provide <sup>more</sup> support for it.

You may be speaking to those who have no knowledge of me. I hope it is apparent to them, when I am 64 years old and can die if a single one of the ulcers that clog both legs and thighs breaks loose, that I am not serving self-interest in anything I say.

I seek no committee employment and would not accept it were it offered.

There is, in short, no ~~personal~~ <sup>selfish</sup> interest I can serve in anything I say herein.

Not in normal concepts. To have a concern for one's society and its basic institutions ~~and~~ is not, I think, selfish.

MEMORANDUM BY HAROLD WEISBERG

The ~~the~~ one Member of the House whose chairmanship of the Select Committee on Assassination is <sup>most</sup> ~~more~~ likely to embarrass the House and abort the investigation is Henry Gonzalez.)

The one who is more likely to be damaged personally and politically than any other also is Henry ~~Gonzalez~~ Gonzalez.

If he has not been made a defendant in a lawsuit over his ill-advised record on political assassinations once E. Howard Hunt is paroled, Hunt has an incompetent lawyer. Hunt's parole is due to be acted on before the new Congress is organized.

I have nothing personal or political against Congressman Gonzalez. I have never met or spoken <sup>with</sup> to him and from what <sup>we</sup> know about him he is of the <sup>some</sup> wing of the Democratic party <sup>as</sup> of which I am.)

Rather <sup>this memorandum is</sup> are these statements and those that will follow based <sup>solely</sup> on his record on this subject, ~~no other~~.

Nor is it that I am in any way opposed to a Congressional investigation of the political assassinations that, in my <sup>view</sup>, have nullified a system of society and turned the world around. My first book, which <sup>with much</sup> was the first on the Warren ~~Commission~~, concluded in February 1965 that the expected job had not been done, and <sup>it</sup> must be <sup>done</sup> entirely in public and preferably by the Congress.)

The dozen years since then have ~~far~~ buttressed this belief. It is because I do want the Congressional investigation to succeed, not to be distracted or diverted, not to be compromised, not to waste itself in impossible defense of its chairman, that I make this statement.

~~Yet if there is one person who is responsible for the existing doubts and uncertainties that perplex the public, the JFK assassinations~~

Congressman Gonzalez bears a heavy responsibility for the <sup>lingering</sup> doubts - <sup>could even</sup> it can be said for their existence - about the JFK assassination. ~~Outside of those in the executive branch who will have every reason for ridiculing him, this is perhaps a greater responsibility than that of any other person.~~

The Congressman was in the motorcade. <sup>He</sup> is a lawyer, whether or not he practises law. He accepted possession of the most basic evidence, Governor Connally's clothing,

and then did nothing<sup>with it</sup> for months. He did not offer it to the FBI, the Secret Service or the Warren Commission. Months later he gave it to Mrs. Connally, with no advice or injunctions. She then <sup>had it</sup> laundered ~~it~~ and with that washed away all the evidence it held. ~~Without this ordinary scientific tests would have established the basic fact or as I believe established the falsity of the official "solution" to that crime.~~

The FBI knew ~~this was~~ the Governor's clothing was prime evidence. ~~It~~ <sup>It</sup> also did nothing to obtain that clothing and establish the evidence it held. ~~This gives~~ <sup>This gives</sup> it ample motive for inspiring attacks on Mr. Gonzalez and ~~were~~ <sup>were</sup> he to be chairman, on the investigating committee. ~~The FBI's~~ <sup>The FBI's</sup> self-interest requires no less.

J. Edgar Hoover, not the Warren Commission, invented the lone assassin theory. ~~It is an invention and it is no more than a theory.~~ It therefore is a major element in the committee's investigation.

Nothing is more basic in this theory than the presumption that a single bullet ~~of medium to low velocity~~ transited the bodies of both victims, inflicting seven non-fatal injuries. In this conjectured career, <sup>supposedly</sup> it/made holes in the clothing of both victims. In Governor Connally's clothing this means his jacket, shirt, undershirt<sup>s</sup> and trousers.

These could have been subjected to precise scientific testing, spectroscopy, then more than half a century old, and neutron-activation analysis, relatively new. ~~The first test is easily fine to parts per million, the second even more fine.~~

That these tests were not performed, that the Governor's clothing was not available for other scientific examination, is entirely due to Congressman Gonzalez' negligence. His negligence commenced at <sup>Markland</sup> hospital that day, when he accepted the Governor's clothing when it was evidence in a crime ~~under the laws of his State of Texas only~~, as he should have known from his law training and as, I believe, the average person would have assumed. He did not instruct the hospital personnel to give this evidence to the FBI or the Secret Service, he did not do this himself, and he there~~after~~ <sup>after</sup> let it languish in his own closet ~~while the Warren Commission, with no more energy or interest, permitted it to repose~~ even after appointment of the Warren Commission.

*In no way does it*  
~~it in no sense~~

relieves Congressman Gonzalez from the responsibilities of his negligence to allege that the Commission and the executive agencies had the responsibility for seeking out ~~these~~ this evidence. Because of his silence and his inaction, the official investigators can fairly claim to have had no knowledge of ~~the~~<sup>its</sup> whereabouts. ~~of this evidence~~

Aside from the capability of the scientific testing, other and readily-apparent evidence was denied all investigations by Congressman Gonzalez. The most obvious is simple optical examination. This would disclose the direction of the bullet or bullets if the examination had been made promptly by the police, local and federal, who were at the hospital. ~~He not only~~ <sup>Rep. Gonzalez</sup> did not see to this - he made it impossible.)

This is a hasty simplification, but on this basis alone Congressman Gonzalez can be blamed for all the unresolved questions, all the uncertainties, all the national suffering in the wake of the JFK assassination.)

He can be ridiculed, and, with him, the Congress can be made a laughing stock. There are those who have the interest and the capability.

Can a man so oblivious to evidence of the crime of which he was a witness be trusted to investigate it? Can he be expected to be impartial when he has this record with which to live? Ought he not recuse himself? These are only some of the questions that can and, I believe, certainly will be raised.

\* \* \* \*

In the light of his subsequent career, well known to those who are really going to be on trial in any real investigation, he is at once ~~more ridiculous and more pathetic.~~ <sup>even more vulnerable.</sup>

He has aligned himself with a weird assortment of paranoids and irresponsibles. ~~One of whose self-description is garbologist~~

~~As in his case~~ One such is A.J. Weberman, self described as a garbologist.

One whose self-description of garbologist is self-praise is A.J. Weberman of the drug scene. His first <sup>claim</sup> ~~claim~~ to fame is pawing through Bob Dylan's garbage. In November 1973 it ~~is~~ is set forth in his obscene leaflet headed "Who Stole JFK's Brain from the National Archives." By March 1974 he was charging in the ~~Ypster~~ <sup>Ypster</sup> Times that the "Waterbuggers Killed JFK." This headline- in fact, on occasion the identical entire front page- was picked up by other journals of the subculture ~~like~~ <sup>such as</sup> what calls itself

~~"The Georgia Straight" though it is in British Columbia.~~

← E. Howard Hunt killed JFK, according to Weberman and his associates.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Rather than being deterred by this irresponsibility and indecency, this conspicuous ~~bad taste~~, Congressman Gonzalez was so attracted to it that a year later he wrote a Foreward to Weberman's book called "Coup d'Etat in America."

Hunt has filed suit against Weberman and his publisher. Once he is out of jail and not concerned about including a Member of Congress, the inclusion of Mr. Gonzalez as a defendant might be expected.

Whether or not Hunt takes this course, the least this association with ~~obscenity~~ <sup>irresponsibility</sup> does is raise substantial questions about Mr. Gonzalez's judgement, responsibility and detachment. The most obvious of the many apparent questions is did he make any inquiry about either Weberman or his defamations before leading himself to Weberman's endeavors, including on the cover of his book.

The least one might reasonably expect of a chairman of a Congressional investigating committee is an inquiry prior to associating himself with one who to the knowledge of his staff had this previous record.

The most perfunctory inquiry would have disclosed that "Hunt" <sup>according</sup> has to an assortment of nuts <sup>has</sup> been everyone from the west-coast representative of the right extremist Rev. Carl McIntyre to Lyndon Johnson's alleged farm manager.

As do all Members, Mr. Gonzalez has the Library of Congress at his disposal. Quite aside from what one might expect of less than investigator, knowledge of the literature in the field of his interest, the Library of Congress would have told Mr. Gonzalez that I am near him and have written more on the subject of his interest than anyone else. Had he asked the Library for any information and had he then phoned me he would have learned before associating himself with this sick commercialization of a great tragedy that his associate Weberman never took the trouble to make any investigation of those pictures he claims are of Hunt and Frank Stutz when obviously they are not and cannot be. Weberman is my source. There came a time in connection with Jim Garrison and one of his adventures that you may recall I ended when I did have to make an investigation of the identical pictures. So when he phoned I asked Weberman.

If <sup>the above</sup> this is what I recall on short notice, ~~this is~~ what I can retrieve from my files, can you begin to imagine what the FBI and the CIA and others have? Can you conceive what this can do to any serious investigation, one that of necessity is of these agencies? I shudder to think of what this also can mean to the Congress. It will be ~~an~~ <sup>an</sup> object of international ridicule, of newspaper cartoons, of nightclub humor. **END**

That it would <sup>not</sup> of 435 members select one whose entire record have not gone into above to conduct a serious investigation of the assassination of a resident and of a great black leader?

When he does not know enough about investigating to keep his own nose clean or even to make a phone call to the library of Congress?

When he has a staff whose incompetence and irresponsibility is reflected in this?

To avoid associations with all the really sick stuff, Mr. Gonzalez did not have to be aware that he has the library of Congress available to him. We need only have a file clerk, as I am sure the Congress foresaw and provided.

In response to Mr. Gonzalez' letter of November 1, 1974 a law student asked me to send Mr. Gonzalez a copy of the fourth book in my Whitewash series. In doing this I wrote Mr. Gonzalez a letter to which I received no response.

I enclosed a list of my other books and offered him any he might want, free. (The fact is I have published more facsimiles of once-suppressed evidence than anyone else has published on the entire subject.) I cautioned him against the prevalent irresponsibility and said "It requires an enormous amount of time to be able to distinguish fact from fiction in this field," ~~in which~~ and offered to receive a member of his staff here or to go to his office, so he might ask of me what he would.

Then and since he has asked no question of me although he voted for the amending of the Freedom of Information Act when a suit you handled for me is the first of the cases cited by the Congress as requiring the amending of the Act. I alone have sued for the suppressed ~~scientific evidence in the assassinations~~ scientific evidence in the assassinations of the President and Dr. King and for much other evidence. In 1970 you represented me in a successful suit for withheld evidence in the case of Dr. King. As you know I

obtained evidence the Warren Commission did not have and I published it in facsimile. Yet the Member who would be the chiefest investigator has not ~~xxx~~ expressed even the most perfunctory interest in any of this evidence.

This is not an ego matter with me. As you know, I do not go to the Hill except by invitation. I seek no personal attention.

But what kind of investigator is Mr. Gonzalez or what kind of staff has he assembled over all the years of his public life if he is not aware that the FBI had certified to a federal court that I know more about the JFK assassination and the FBI's investigation of it than anyone in the FBI?

Can he, after all these years of obtaining public attention on this subject, have done so little of the most basic homework?

While associating himself with garbology?

I'm sorry this has to be off the top of the head on a night when I have to get up not much after four to keep medical appointments in Washington. I regard all of this as very serious, with the integrity of the country and its institutions very much involved. I do want a good, thorough and honest investigation. I regard this as essential to the viability of our institutions, as the only possible deterrent to the nullification of ballots by bullets and to the cleansing and healing of those agencies which failed in time of great stress and were unable to escape this during the life of the Warren Commission.

I feel this deeply.

I was the first to ask for a Congressional investigation.

But I would regard one under the direction and control, of the Congressman Gonzalez whose personal record is partially indicated herein as certain to be another great and long-lasting national trauma and a defamiation of the nation and of the Congress. It would perpetuate all the agonies, ~~guarantee~~ <sup>guarantee</sup> that there can be no ~~answers~~ answers to those questions that can be answered and eliminate, perhaps forever, that neither of these monstrous crimes can ~~even~~ <sup>even</sup> be solved.

You are free to use this in any way you see fit. I will answer any questions or display any records or files to anyone in the Congress who may have any interest. I do

sincerely believe that anyone with any knowledge of evidence or investigations can in a few minutes see what was of no interest to Congressman Gonzalez when it was offered to him - he did not have to ask for it - and compare this with ~~his~~ what he has associated himself with and on this simple basis see why I offer the foregoing opinion.

If he becomes chairman of the committee, it will be a disaster for the Congress and for the nation.