My refere ce to Lid's effort to rewrite part of our history, using Fortas as his agent, in this letter to Yardley, dates to the first wave of books critical of the office solution to the JFK assassination. Fordas, from the FoI's own records, was uneasy and opposed to what Lid wanted - for J. Edgar boover to write a book critical of the critics.

Fortas did go to the FbI on¢ it. The people he dealt with there perceived his lack of enthusiasm for the idea, and they evolved a cirlerant approach that Fortas jumped at to get the thing over with.

The FMI got a friendly reporter, Sid Epstein, then of the Washington Star, to write a letter to "cover, in return for which he would get an exclusive response that would make news. The FBI drafted the letter for Epstein and he used the letter it gave him to write it.

The FBI then used this letter as the peg on which to have a four-page press release that got international attention.

I have these records in the subject file under the Star and Epstein and perhaps under Fortas.

Mr. Conathan Yardley Baok World The Washington Post 1150 15 St., IW Washington, D.C. 20071

Dear Mr. Yardley,

7627 old Receiver Hoad Frederick, ad. 21701 10/21/90

I write you rather than MS. King because you may remember some of my background and because I am disturbed by Mr. Prettyman's review of Laura Kalman's biography of the Fortas. I do not allege or believe that Mr. rettyman does not faithfully review the book nor can I, based on his review, allege that she is unfair to Fortas or his wife. Yet I have the feeling of unfairness and that Fortas is held to standards not applied to others in his position.

It is not that I object to showing the warts, which we all have and which I have done in seven books. My books are on the most controversial subject of our political assassinations. I've gotten between 15,000 and 20,000 letters about them and imnumerable phone calls. These do not include a single complaint about unfairness and some of those of whom I was or tical became friends. My point is that reporting human flaws does not require unfairness.

What Mr. Prettyman does not say is that the firm of wrnold, Fortas and Porter took the so-called "security" cases without fee. with all the imputations of greed this is an omission I regret. also missing is any reference to the loss of clients to a firm specializing in government relations in those earliest days of cold-war hysteria. This was a real risk to a fledgling law firm in those days.

It happens that I'd known Thurman arnold when he handed the Department of Justice anti-trust division and I took him what I developed in a series of Nazi cartel stories I did as an investigative reporter. I'd known Paul Porter when he was practising law after leaving, if I remember correctly, the FCC. They, along with Fortas, who I'd not until then met, agreed to represent 10 of us fired without charges or hearing by the State Department in what amounted to a pogrom under the anti-deconstructed emocratic MrCarran Rider. Because the rider provided that anyone in named agencies could be fired without many cause given, without charges, and without hearing, they faced a more formidable task that representing those fired with some form of due process. Tayywere so successful we were all rehired, with a public apology -really unheard of - and we all resigned.

I knew Carol agger slightly when 4 was the editor of the Senate Civil Liberties Committee and she, as a lawyer for the Sational delations Board, helped us. She did not then, as a young woman, appear to be engaged of huge hourts of money but in fact was so principled she wore unattractive liste stockings as a protest against Japanese atrocities in China.

I know of a mission Fortas undertook for LEG, of which I entirely disapprove, that amounted to an effort to rewrite a major event in our history. But he is not alone, not even among justices of the Supreme Gourt, in having departed from accepted practise. From the Prettyman review there is no reason to believe that klaman, in fairness, made ony reference to them. Like Earl Warren becoming chairman of the Presidential commission that bears his name when it appeared certain t at the Jack "uby case would go to the "ourt. Or Justice Jackson on the largely whitewashing Pearl Harbor commission.

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The last time I saw Fortas was at the memorial for Cliff Durr, who had refused to accept reappointment to the FGC by Fruman because of Truman's misnamed " security" ploy, exposed for what it weally was by Carl Pernstein in his book on his parents. Durry if you do not recall, returned to alabama instead and practised civil-rights law, not a way to get rich. I bink believe he then represented to as Parks when she refused to take a back seat on a Birmingham bus.

We all of us have flaws, including those of us who try not to.

I get the impression from the Prettyman review of the Kalman book that she lacked balance if not also fairness in her account of the life of a fine man to whon the country is greatly indebted for the truly fine things he did by exaggerated reference to those thing for which he is subject to criticism.

ompare, for example, with the public and press treatment of both Nixon as a person and of his books after he was the first resident to resign to avoid imoeachmentp

We mistreat out liberals this way, not our conservatives.

There is another item in today's Book World that is monor but you may find interesting. It relates to Michard "bshire, under "Chandler in Dallas". Under the name of "Anderson" abshire agreed to be the ghost writer for the despicable Ricky White who seeks wealthy from the complete fabircation, that his father was one of JFK's assassins. The Post did not mention this but it got considerable attention elsewhere. Well, it is not a complete fabrication. Some of it is cribbed from a novel, some from a cheap novel pretended to be non-fiction and some from a potboiler that pretended to be a book reviewing three books. I understand that white and abshrife have parted ways, but initially he went for "hite's palpable untenable concoction.

Sincerely, caloldees by

Marold Weisberg