

August 9, 1967

Honorable J. William Fulbright  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Fulbright:

Assume, as I do with you, that the Great Society has become the sick society and ask yourself the question I do not see reflected in the press reports of your American Bar Association speech: Is there a single infection that spreads and causes or contributes to the cause of the permeating illness?

There is, I believe, and you and the few others who have tried to provide leadership and public understanding have refused to face it.

That single infection is the Kennedy assassination and its official investigation which, to avoid offense to those who may be your friends, I call merely "inadequate".

No assassination, regardless of inspiration, purpose or, as in this case is foolishly alleged, lack of it, is without political consequences. I address this in the first words in the first of the four books on this subject that I have thus far completed. My efforts to interest you in it, first in manuscript and then after general distribution, failed.

So, I think it appropriate to ask whether policy has been identical with what we could anticipate it to have been had President Kennedy not been assassinated. I have no difficulty finding an answer.

If policy has not been identical, if control over policy or influence in its formulation or its formulators changed as a result of the assassination, and if the government's conduct of the investigation was inadequate to a degree that cannot be explained by human weakness or error or even incompetence, the result is an inference that cannot be ignored if there is ever to be sanctity in government or trust in this one.

From the very first we have had total abdication by those upon whom our society depends for leadership. First the lawyers failed, for Oswald was systematically and quite publicly denied all of his rights, to the accompaniment of their public silence. Then the press failed, for it allowed itself to be diverted by the FBI, which did foreclose sources, and then corrupted by careful but very obvious leaks, each favoring and purchasing a different important and influential voice. The eastern intellectual community was and remains silent, even today, where there can be no pardoning it. Aside from one or two (paid for) reviews, the professors of law and history, novelists, playwrights, and writers of non-fiction have nothing to say. The lutes of the poets are mute.

Senator Fulbright -

So, there is company for those legislators who find security and temporary tranquility in silence and comfort themselves with the evasion that they are not alone. Only a single man among you has been heard from, and he has prepared himself less than he easily could and should have.

Do we deserve better than a sick society? Can we expect more? There is nothing that has happened since November 22, 1963, that is not related to or that may not have come about as a result of the assassination; yet those, preeminently you, who properly complain about our errors and their cost, refuse to get at the root of the infection, will not do that minimum required to seek the recapture of the national honor and self-respect, without which no genuine reformation is possible.

Are you and Congress saying that a President can be murdered and consigned to history with the dubious official epitaph of a phony inquest, and that when this happens there is no jeopardy to our basic institutions, including the Presidency, and that there is no hazard to any incumbent?

The people, in their simple wisdom and visceral comprehension, understand better, and they are disquieted. If what happened when President Kennedy was murdered can happen, can be formalized by the successor administration and approved by Congress, we are never out of jeopardy. Ponder European developments of 1933, then considered impossible by all the leading intellects and politicians.

Are you prescribing aspirin for cancer? That you want to treat the illness is fine; too few in public life are willing to essay even that. But in taking the position that Viet Nam policy is separate and by itself, you divorce it from what it cannot be separated from, a change in policy following a change in administration brought about by the assassination.

Possibly there is no connection, but too much is involved to assume this is neither possible nor probable. There is now no doubt that no single major part of the Report of the Warren Commission is tenable. That this is less well known than it should be is in part your fault, for you have not familiarized yourself with the available fact. I, for one, offered it to you repeatedly.

Further, I have published enough (and have more not yet published) to prove that there is no possibility of considering the investigation an impartial one or of serious intent, save for the framing of the dead accused assassin (and with him, history and all of us, our present and future).

These may seem like impossible and extreme statements to you. In that event, I invite you to call upon me for substantiation. I will have as much time as you require whenever you want it. My work is unique in that it is restricted almost entirely to the official evidence, printed and suppressed from the 26 volumes. I have already published a fair volume of this.

Unwilling as you may be to find out for yourself what is true and what is probable, I am confident you will not forgive yourself if you do not and that history will be no more kind.

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There is no rug large enough to hide this soil, and there is no escaping the responsibility by those in public office.

I delivered a copy of my first book to your office. I am mailing you copies of the second and third, the appearance of each of which was greeted with more than two full columns as news by the New York Times.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg