

Dear Dr. Goldberg

2/3/96

Because we are snowed in and it has not been possible for me to get some of ^{that has been} my work retyped, my plans for today and tomorrow, I ~~and~~ respond to your letter of the 31st with the detail without which what I say may not seem credible.

There came a time when I was so perplexed that there was no publisher willing to do Whitewash that I began keeping records of its non-publishing history. They take up a filedrawer. I had more than a hundred rejections internationally without a single adverse editorial comment. I found it incredible that a President could be assassinated and a book based entirely on the official evidence could not be published. I then did not know it was the first. As you know, it has stood time's testing. I have yet, from any of my books, to get a call or a letter from anyone of whom I was critical ^{or} complaining about unfairness or inaccuracy.

I was not prepared for the fantastic emotional response to my first major radio show on a 50,000 watt clear-channel station in New York and later that to the first TV show, on what was then the largest independent station in the country, Ch.5 in New York. It had been scheduled as a 20-¹⁵ minute segment but it got so intense they let the cameras roll for two hours and twenty minutes. The show was aired the next week, beginning Sunday midnight. From the time it ended my phone remained busy. I could not get back to bed. It was fantastic and among other things it told me that people cared and cared very much and more, appreciated. That show sold out a 5,000 print. There were four of them before Dell came to me for it, having rejected it three times.

I began by making a file folder for each person who wrote me but that soon became impossible. I filed those ~~the~~ letters and my response by the letter of the alphabet. When I ran out of space in my office, which although small holds six full-sized, four-drawer file cabinets and seven of two-drawers only, I had to begin to move things to the basement. That is where I have all the records I got via FOIA. My recollection is not ~~clear~~ ^{clear} and it has not been safe for me to go to the ^{base} basement for years so I may be wrong. but I think the overflow from my office files takes up three jammed, full-sized file cabinets. Perhaps more.

I have kept every letter I have gotten because I believed they could make a fine study of popular reaction to the assassination.

Along with ^{them}, including in today's mail, there are innumerable letters with those writing on the subject, the one in today's mail from a stranger.

My files are like Topsy, they just grew. I never had time to organize them, never tied to, and they are by letter and by name, with some by subject going back to ^{before} my first work at the Archives.

I now longer answer all letters myself. Until increasing feebleness prevented it, I did. Now my wife frequently responds with a card of which we do not have any copy. The reaction continues to be simply fantastic. I do not take time for it but I do tell you that this paper is part of two cases of it a man who wanted to come here and did decided he wanted to send us. He sent that and more.

To a large degree, if not for the most part, those who used my work did not bother to ask me. I always agreed with all requests, which were few. That was a matter of belief. I do not believe that any of us can own such a subject, I do believe that all views should be available to the people (before I know how crazy they could get) and I have always allowed anyone who wanted it free and unsupervised access to all I have. Plus the use of our copier.

For some years we also provided a place to stay. My wife managed a Block income tax office. When she decided to do that work for herself our spare bedroom became her office and we could no longer put people up. The Grodens, for example, weakened here often seems in retrospect almost every weekend. Gordon his first work for me. He would bring it, we'd go over it, etc. The first book his name is on was written by his coauthor named Model who by happenstance was in a position to steal much from being able to overhear what I was telling an editor who was interested, he said, in a series of articles.

Bruce McKinney is one who was profuse in his thanks. I gave the copy of his thesis he sent me to Hood so students could use it so I cannot quite what he said in it. He was a struggling instructor at Penn State then. He stayed in touch from his teaching posts in several other colleges and universities. He spent a week or so here. I have a separate file on him and on others like him.

With some I've had little correspondence, like Lifton. You should have noticed that in his Best Evidence, which is neither, he began contriving to take credit for what had been published two decades earlier, particularly by me. He is a thief and he has even bragged in writing of his intended thievery and then of his doing it as he said he would. That was in letters to Meagher.

Livingstone, a world-class nuisance, was here often, taking much of my time, and doing no work, just trying to impress me with how important he was. He had an assistant, a Baltimore cop moonlighting, who spent a great deal of time here and made innumerable copies. It was a long time before I realized that he was a thief and that he was stealing for Lifton, not Livingstone, with those two mortal enemies! He stole only copies of my records, not FOIA records, and of pictures. Which cannot be replaced.

I can't begin to remember them all. I gave Meagher a copy of the limited edition of Whitewash and told her to feel free to make any use she wanted. Not having seen the book as she then had it I do not know if she followed up on what I had but if she did she was welcome to it.

In recent years - have earned a not inconsiderable unpopularity by debunking the theories held so dear by so many. They take that ad personal insults from what a fine man, Dr. Gary Aguilar, said in making the Cola coalition on Political Assassinations ward to me last October. I have spent much time ^{with him, phone + letters} with him, and he is a very busy ^{and} fine ophthalmologist. On hearing that I asked him if when he believed his children needed spanking when he ^{spoke} spoke them he was expressing hatred. He did not respond. He and another doctor are working on a theory without adequate knowledge of what is relevant and not known to them.

To begin with I did resent the thievery. But I got used to it and do not mind it, in fact rather expect it. What I mind more is those would-be Perry Masons being in fact Keystone Kops and not asking me. But I suppose if they did that they'd not have what they think they have.

For example, in a chicken-shit supposed review of Case Open a character named the Vries criticized me for not making any reference to those ~~times~~ Dealey Plaza "Tramps." They had, never had, any relevance. His criticism was two years after the police records were disclosed and more than 15 years after the disclosure of the FBI investigation of them that I had forced. That was for what is now called The ~~Fourth~~ Fourth Decade.

For a convention they were having about a year and a half ago George Michael Evica, who wrote a book I never bothered to get, solicited a paper on me as a government agent. After I'd sued the hell out of the government for more than a decade, had forced disclosure of a third of a million ^{pages} pages, had led to the amending of FOIA in 1974, and had set a few legal precedents.

I do not mind that those nut did not love me but I do wish they's ask an not deceive and mislead the people.

So it is also a bit complicated.

It is now a physical impossibility for me to get all those things together and to send them. For several reasons. However, it will all be at Hood College and I do really believe what began believing, that the reflection of peoples' feelings as reflected in any, many thousands of letters can be significant. More people do not believe the official ^{myth} mythology than will talk about it.

Over the years I cannot begin to recall all the newspapers and TV people who have been here. For what they did, what they copied, there will be no records. They used the phone. ^{ear} Researchers from the papers and magazines have been here and they also copied what they wanted to copy. I have no idea what. But they were not stealing although they did not give their source.

On that time left matter you mention, between your previous letter and this one I completed a manuscript of about 75,000 words on the sick, pathetic book by former

FBI SA James Patrick Hosty, Jr., Assignment: Oswald. Even his title is a lie.

Before that in not much more time I did a manuscript on Betrayal in Dallas, a sick and disgusting book by a ch in history, Walt Brown, who told me he had been an FBI agent agent.


I think the volume of rough-draft manuscripts I leave will surprise you, they total that ^{many} ~~of~~ ^{pages}, that much work.

It time it will all be available for others to use.

I hope that it will be used and will be used well.

I do appreciate what you have in mind and I have no suspicions about you. But then I deal all the time with those about whom I have suspicions. Fact is, I'd be pleased ^{write} ~~write~~ your ~~page~~ project possible. I do thank you for the thought and the willingness.

Best wishes,



If it is not clear, letters of inquiry are mixed in the files with all other letters. I do have separate files where I write to make a record for history and where the volume of the correspondence required it.

I was not aware of The Similas Letters. I have not seen or heard from Sprague for several decades. Hurr was here last year with a friend. They are working on the impossible belief that Greer shot JFK with a pistol while driving that limo. I tried to debunk it for them. They were not receptive. I am the one who got Sprague interested in locating all the pictures possible, in the 60s. Both are good people. On Similas, it was not that I believed he had to have valuable pictures, which was possible. I wrote that to reflect the character of the official "investigation."

January 31, 1996

Dear Mr. Weisberg: I was glad to receive your
January 20, 1996 letter today.

You wrote, "I work every day. I
have little time left and much I want to get on
paper"

III. Please permit me to offer a suggestion
IV. Your correspondence has always been
valued by me.

V. Many authors have quoted statements
from your self-published pioneering analyses.
And also from your letters, often unnoticed.

For example, Bruce C. McKinney in his
case study of the Warner Commission and doctoral
dissertation, Pennsylvania State University, 1985,
quotes from your February 6, 1985 letter to him.

VI. I have been too timid before now to
propose a project for your review and approval.

VII. I think it would be beneficial
to publish an annotated collection of letters
written by you, and, also, to you.

VIII. There would be different possible
ways to organize and structure such a book.

IX. Knowing that you have met many
self-promoters, please let me explain that
I am a serious scholar and researcher.

X. Regardless of whether you want to
work with me or not, I am available for
further explorations.

XI. Please feel free to seek advice and
ask any questions that come into mind.

May all go well with you.

Respectfully
Dr. Ralph Holdberg
40 Rue du Chate...

P.S.

I do not want to upset you, yet
thought this should come to your attention.

N.B.

An antiquarian bookseller lists this item

"THE SIMILAS LETTERS" -by- Harold Weisberg, Richard E. Sprague, and
Gary Murr. An exchange of correspondence and information related to the
JFK assassination mystery witness-photographer Norman Similas. November
1967. Reprint (20+pp.) Also- data related to the "Babushka Lady" witness..\$ 5.00

Is this being sold with your knowledge?
and your permission?

Please, let us try to find a way
you and I can co-operatively bring to
fruition another Harold Weisberg contribution.

Sincerely,
Ralph