

ML
4/20/67

Dear Peter,

Please excuse my delay in answering your well-thought out letter of April 1. I think you understand that I stay very busy, why and on what. I have been just a bit busier than usual and my wife and I are a little more tired than we have been. I am behind schedule on two books. But I have now finished the third. It is on what you asked me about, New Orleans.

If you recall the related chapters, eleven of the first book and seven of the second, together with what relates to them, I think you will understand what is behind New Orleans developments. I do not know, but this is what I believe. There was to have been a large section of WHITEWASH III that related to this, and as my work and research continued WHITEWASH III was getting too big. I have known about the New Orleans investigation for four months. When it became public I decided to change my plans and write a separate book on it. Then I decided to include in it what developed in New Orleans. That book is almost three times as long as I planned it. And WHITEWASH III will not be smaller because there will be much information in it that, at the time I announced it, I did not have.

I will be going to New Orleans soon and probably will know more when I return, but it will not be proper for me to say what I learn that is to go to court, for that would be an interference with the courts.

If things go as I hope, I will not have to publish the New Orleans book myself. That is a great burden on my wife and me. I would rather she worked less hard and that I spend all my time writing. I had written part of a book called Manchester Machiavelli: The Unintended Unofficial Whitewash. I now intend to finish it as rapidly as I can and then finish WHITEWASH III. Unfortunately, I was only too right about Manchester. While it is not probable that all of the harm his book has done and will do can be corrected, the record can be, and that I think I must do. If I do this, there will be some people who will have access to what I believe is the truth, and it is, as I think you know, very important that we have access to the truth. It can be a strong shield and a sharp sword. Swords must be forged, and this, in a way, is the function of writers.

Thank you very much for the money and for the kind things you said. We do appreciate them. I am sending you some additional order blanks, and it is good of you to give them out. If this is not enough, please let me know.

Because you have been so kind and so interested and have tried to help us, I am enclosing a little souvenir for you. It is a copy of one of the reports of the FBI on their New Orleans investigation. However, I also ask you to keep it entirely private until my book is published. The "75" in blue pencil at the bottom means it comes from the file of that number.

You may, of course, add my name to your list for your survey on policy in Vietnam, but please understand that I now have very little time for correspondence. You asked me no questions. But I will tell you what I believe. I believe our policy is wrong and barbarous, that we are now and have been doing terrible things, that what we did today in bombing Haiphong is one of the worst, and that each of us must do what he can to change this policy.

It is, of course, frightful that we are killing innocent people, regardless of whatever reason those who are in charge and have the power to order these things may have or how correct they may think they are. That they think they are ~~xxxxxxx~~ right does not make them right. In doing these very bad things to others we thereby do very bad things to ourselves. So, if we can bring about a change in this wrong policy we not only help others but we help ourselves.

Our law presupposes that courts and judges will make mistakes. This is why there is built in an appeals system. If judges can be expected to make mistakes, so may others. We do not suffer when an appeals court overrules the decision of a lower court. Man always makes mistakes. But when we make mistakes, if we correct them, we grow stronger for it. So doing what we can to correct the enormous mistake in Vietnam is really helping make our society stronger, not weaker.

Thank you very much for taking the time to write me and for trying to help us.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Weisberg

13016 Erwin Street
Van Nuys, California
April 1, 1967

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

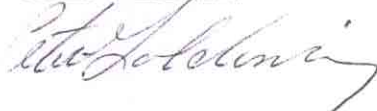
I am so sorry that I wasn't able to send you your money right away. I have been saving half my allowance so that I could pay you the full price of the book. I have read the book and it is exceptionally well written. How is your family? Did you have a picture taken of you and your family, yet? I would very much like to have it to put it next to your letter, that I framed. What do you think about what is happening in New Orleans, This might be the big break you and so many others have fought so hard for. I gave out all the application blanks to my friends. They said they would send their money to you for Whitewash 2 and Whitewash 3 but I have doubts in my mind if they will do it. Therefor I am asking you, if possible, to send me a few more application blanks.

I just was in a debt about the Kennedy assination. I was against the Warren Commission. We, my friend and I, started out with no one on our side and when we finished, we had practically everyone on our side, thanks to the information we got from Whitewash one and two.

I am doing a survey on the U.S. policy in Vietnam and I would very much like to add your name, onto my survey list.

Yours truely, I will always admire
you for your courage to stand
up and fight for what you
believe in.

PETER GOLDENRING



P.S. Enclosed is \$5.00
for whitewash II.