

1/7/74

Dear Elmer,

I did not write simply to quarrel.

I do not regard you as either a fool or a knave, your words. If I did I would ignore you if only because any communication would be impossible.

A rather large percentage of my friends are those who do not accept what you call my "dicta." Almost all of those with whom I have disagreements and do not get along well are those you would say do accept it.

This is typical of what you simply will not face, that you are the captive of prejudices and passions that ill become any lawyer and certainly do not fit one who has earned the reputation you have.

My immediate point, and not one I made for the first time, is that while it is proper for a lawyer under the adversary system to do anything he can get away with in court, the same thing is grossly unethical and I suggest immoral in what is guised as a dispassionate and unbiased "review" not in court but of a literary work.

It makes you your own kind of assassin, as you were with me.

If you had the slightest idea of some of the things that Belin did behind the scenes, when he expected that they would never be known, you'd have an inkling of why he was driven to the added dishonesty of this crumbun retreat.

And this leads to something else you simple refuse to recognize. "o insult, Elmer, but you are ignorant of the most basic fact.

This is not a matter in which a skilled lawyer can improvise in court and between that and teshincalities become right when he is in fact wrong.

If you had done nothing else in the past ten years but go over what is not public, then you would have an inkling of the truth. From what was suppressed. But even this would not have been enough. You would have to seek out the witnesses and learn what they really told the FBI, not what those reports da say. You would seek out those witnesses avoided by the FBI and learn why they were avoided. And you would ask the questions that you as a lawyer know damned well the Commission lawyers like Belin deliberately did not answer. How this alone could not have raised those legal hackles in a man as principled as you I simply can't understand except in the above terms.

The plain fact is that you have not even mastered what is published. Or refuse to understand it. And this also is not like you. At least not from your reputation.

Was this not even more true in the King assassination? Did that deter you?

Sp, make like the physician and heal thyself. You'll regret it if you do not and if you do live as long as I'd like you to.

A lawyer ought never represent himself. You do. You are emotionally, not intellectually involved. And it drives you to what you ordinarily would not consider.

You have become so partisan I can't trust you with what is not public as I once offered. Believe me or not, you are way beyond your depth.

Even in simple expressions, like, "I think that you are all wet on the Assassination and related matters." Forget the first part. What do you know about me on anything you can honestly describe as "related matters?" What you wouldn't do to a witness who pulled something like this!

You are hung ip Elmer. Free yourself and recapture the integrity you persist in throwing away every time you agree to review a book. You are, by all decent standards, disqualified.

So. Live long and well and get over it.

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January 4, 1974

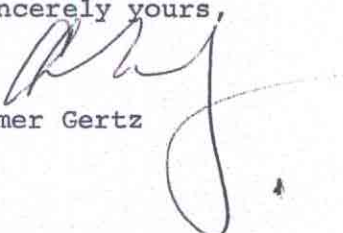
Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 8
Frederick, Md. 21701

Dear Harold:

I do not want to quarrel with you, although I think that you are all wet on the Assassination and related matters. Let us simply agree to disagree. But don't, please, think that I am a fool or knave because I don't accept your dicta.

In any event, have a very fine year.

Sincerely yours,


Elmer Gertz

EG/slp