

Mr. Don Gibson
415 Nace St.,
Greensburg, PA 15601

3/26/95

Dear Don,

I've had more to do than usual recently and even less time to read.

But I have continued reading your book and the farther I've gotten into it the more important it seems to be. I like it very much.

In fact I've been recommending it to professor friends and others. I've urged the professors to get it for themselves and to ask their libraries to get it for the students.

And I have nothing negative to say of it.

I've almost finished reading it, about 30 pages to go. The only time I've had for reading it is while resting when I walk early mornings in the building in which the medical lab is, before they open and after I've finished with the morning papers and after that while waiting for the physical therapists to open. I may be able to finish it tomorrow but if not I should Wednesday morning.

In terms of the JFK assassination I think some of its more important contributions to what is known is what it draws together on those who had motive for wanting him not to be President and the additional reasons for McCloy not to have been appointed a member of the Commission or for him to have accepted the appointment if normal beliefs had been implied the practise or intent.

I am aware of the disclosed LBJ phone transcript and have them for the period that includes the appointment of the Commission. As you will see in NEVER AGAIN! there is reason to believe that ~~there is reason to believe that~~ the Katzenbach memo's content reached LBJ about 9 that Sunday night when he had a call from Moyers. Five minutes later he phoned Hoover and five minutes after that he phoned Katzenbach. That was before the disclosed taping. I have no doubt that those you mention endorsed the same idea, whether or not they knew about it. It was quite early on Monday morning, 11/25, that the Post not only knew about it but had decided to support the appointment of a commission editorially. I have the FBI's records on the steps it took to talk the Post out of that editorial. It was DeLoach who did it for Hoover and he succeeded. Johnson then was playing both sides, I believe to keep Hoover as content as possible only to double-cross him, which he may have intended all along and I think did intend.

I wish I knew when Rostow first had the same idea and to whom he then expressed it. I am inclined to believe that he may have proposed it to Katzenbach before Katzenbach proposed it to Hoover the afternoon of 11/24.

Aside from the possibility that Rostow may have had the idea first and have given it to Katzenbach, on the basis of the records of which I know it began with Katzenbach.

Those you name may well have been influential in getting Johnson to feel more satisfied with the idea and of them Alsop in particular may have led him to believe the press would like it and endorse it.

On bypassing other investigations, I doubt that Johnson needed any encouragement. He must have worried about either House undertaking a public investigation and he would have been even more worried about both of them doing that.

What was important to him then was seeing to it that there would be no question of the legitimacy of his succession and preserving domestic tranquility. He must have known without Hoover telling him that Hoover would not want any belief to exist that there had been a conspiracy.

When you can come again I think it would be helpful to you work on the creation of the Commission to go over some records that are easily seen here and others that can be located. I think that what I refer to, Hoover's effort supposedly supported if not initiated by LBJ, to keep the Post from publishing an editorial recommending a commission in its issue of 11/26, will be of value to you. I also remember a rather long memo DeLoach wrote as Hoover's note-taker when Manchester interviewed him will be valuable.

When Dave Wrono was here he assembled some records I have in what he calls correctly a Hoover-hysteria file. He may have more of that that I have. It was virtually an instant hysteria and it lasted at least a week. He feared for his reputation and that of the FBI.

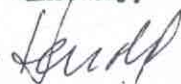
There is also what may be useful to you, how Hoover got what for him was his solution, the lone-nut, no-conspiracy "solution." It was from what the Army's ~~112th~~ 112th domestic-intelligence component in Texas told first the Dallas police and then the media, of Oswald's "defection" in which it colored him red when he was in fact virulently anti-Communist and anti-USSR. What I have in Whiteash is solid on Oswald's politics and it is confirmed by what G. Hosenko told the FBI. Which is what led to his three years of subhuman abuse by the CIA.

You are, of course, welcome to copies of any of this you want.

If your work takes you to immobilizing the Texas Court of Inquiry, I believe that Sylvia Meagher's work on that is best. Paul Hoch has done most of the work of which I know about the 112th. The Army claims it destroyed those records. And then there is the fact that no report by Powell, of that unit and in the TSBD for several hours, has been disclosed. Not even the FBI's interview of him.

Thanks for your good wishes. We are about as well as we can be, thanks.

Sincerely,


Harold Weisberg



Room 200, FOB
University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

March 23, 1995

Dear Harold,

I was very glad that I had the opportunity to talk to you on March 7. I enjoyed my visit with you very much.

I am continuing with my work on the creation of the Warren Commission. Also, I am nearly done re-reading Oswald in New Orleans and I am one-third of the way through Whitewash - the report on the Warren Report. (I read Post Mortem and Whitewash IV years ago.)

As I indicated to you during our conversation, the LBJ telephone transcripts for November 22 through November 29 suggest that Joe Alsop, N. Katzenbach, Dean Acheson, and Eugene Rostow were important in getting LBJ to create the Commission and to stop other investigations (except FBI of course). All four of these men (and perhaps William Bundy who may have played a role in this) had associations with McClay or Dulles, or both. If you think of anything you think might be relevant to the involvement of these men in getting the Warren Commission started, please let me know.

GREENSBURG, PA. 15601

(Over)

When ever you have the time, I ~~would~~
would greatly appreciate it if you dropped
me a note indicating what you thought
of my book (even if some of what you
say is negative).

I hope you and your wife are doing
okay. Again, it was very nice to see you.

Sincerely,
Don Gibson

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