

Mr. Donald Gifford, Dean  
University of Maryland School of Law  
500 West Baltimore St.,  
Baltimore, MD 21201

Harold Weisberg  
7627 Old Receiver Rd.  
Frederick, MD 21702

9/15/97

Dear Dean Gifford,

About a month after I sent you what I wrote about the Hermit Hall disgrace of scholarship and of the law I having heard nothing from you wrote you the letter I enclose. Then I thought of the fact that school was in recess, that it was vacation time, and I decided to wait to eliminate those <sup>as</sup> reasons for your not having a word to say about what I sent you and about what I wrote you. Which, of course, is saying much, that total silence.

You share that total silence with Dean Hall and with the announced publisher of the Max Holland book. I sent the manuscript I sent you to them. Hall's copy, because I sent it to the ARRB, <sup>will</sup> ~~will~~ forever be a public record once they finish what they are doing.


If by any chance it finds a memory hole before then, a number of professors in several institutions are prepared to make the scandal it should cause because he/they will have violated the law which created them and states that all their papers will become public.

Those legitimate scholars <sup>of</sup> have copies of what I sent you. They are legitimate subject-matter experts and have a concern for their country I regret very much that neither you nor anyone on the law review staff reflects by first the utterly irresponsible publication of that outrage that bore Hall's name and then by your silence when what you did was called to your attention.

I had hoped you (plural) would have had more self-respect, more concern for your professional reputations, and that you would not want to be recorded in our history as this reflects.

And that you would not want the law review to have done what it has done and made no effort to set the record straight.

With sincere regrets,

  
Harold Weisberg

Apologies for my typing. Sorry it cannot be any better.

Mr.  
Dean Donald Gifford, Esq., Dean  
University of Maryland School of Law  
500 W. Baltimore St.,  
Baltimore, MD 21201

Harold Weisberg  
7627 Old Receiver Rd.  
Frederick, MD 21702

Dear Dean Gifford,

In writing you on July 24 I told you I am 84 years old and that my health is impaired. What I sent you represents a not inconsiderable amount of effort ~~to~~ for one of my age and with my health problems. I made no demands of you. Since then you have not been phoned by any reporter so you have reason to believe my purpose was not to create a public scandal. Yet you or your office have lacked what when I was young we were taught is the proper way to behave, the common courtesy of at the least acknowledging receipt of what I did send you.

If you are away, someone in your office should have recognized that what I wrote you about is a serious matter and that it reflects on your law school, its Law Review, and I suggest on the State.

As I said, the assassination of any president is in effect, under our system, a coup d'etat. And that is the most subversive of crimes in a society like ours. There is and there has been simply enormous dissatisfaction with the official explanation of that assassination and now the law school and its Law Review have allowed others to make the <sup>up</sup> part of the unacceptable official explanation of that assassination, which most Americans do not believe.

I would have hoped that the school of law in particular would not want to be <sup>cast</sup> ~~cast~~ in that role and would have taken the obvious and proper steps to be certain it had not been. As I also hope it would teach those who will become the State's lawyers to guard against.

When I read what Dean Hall wrote - perhaps it would be more accurate to say what he put his name to - I wondered, along with other things he had done, if he had an ulterior purpose in attracting so much attention to himself. After I wrote you I was informed that he is a candidate <sup>at</sup> to become president of his university, the one in that office having resigned to go to Brown.

The editors of your law review are neither sophisticated nor questioning when in publishing this propaganda along with <sup>listing</sup> Dean Hall's obligations they had no question about whether he could have done the work that bears his name and met those other obligations.

Indeed, whether he could have met those obligations and have begun to acquire the knowledge necessary for such writing. Or for the statements represented as fact in it when they are not factual.

Perhaps, collectively, those of you at the law school know nothing about the subject. If that is so, then you did, some of you, have the obligation to undertake to learn enough about it to prevent being used as propagandists and to prevent being used to deceive and mislead those who trust you.

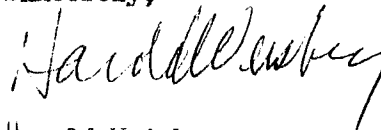
If there had been the reflection of any of this required knowledge then it would have been obvious that the theorizing began with the Commission, which theorized a non-conspiracy assassination. If you were at all familiar with the official record you would know that referring to its Report as a theory is to praise it. It was no such thing, it was a preconception, an official determination before any investigation was possible, as what I sent you leaves without any reasonable question.

Of course I am sorry that anything like this happened.

But I am sorrier that after it happened there was no concern over or even interest in any effort to correct the false statements made in the Law Review to those who trust it and to those who will see it in the future and who have already been influenced by it.

If a school of law refuses to distinguish between right and wrong and refuses to teach the difference what does it teach or intend to teach?

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg

Dear Dean Cifford,

My apologies.

Because my typing is poor I asked a friend to retype the letter to you. Some of it was not clear to her. I had <sup>intended</sup> what she has as a postscript to be on a separate page in the event you decide to show this to others.

Harold Weisberg

The act that established the Assassination Records and Review Board states that when it ends, its work and all its records must be publicly accessible. I am sending the board a copy of the enclosure for its records.

Harold Weisberg

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'HW', located to the right of the typed name 'Harold Weisberg'.

**Harold Weisberg  
7627 Old Receiver Road  
Frederick, Maryland 21702**

Donald Gifford, Esq., Dean  
University of Maryland School of Law  
500 W. Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

July 24, 1997

Dear Dean Gifford,

What belatedly drew my attention to the Maryland Law Review's first issue was the plug for it in the May 15, 1997, issue of the Washington Spectator. In it, Max Holland used this quote from H. L. Mencken:

“... The majority of men prefer delusion to truth. It is easier to grasp. Above all, it fits more snugly than the truth into a universe of false appearances...”

This is appropriate to the Law Review's use of the article in that issue by Kermit L. Hall, who is a member of the Assassination Records Review Board that supposedly is to see to the disclosure of all J.F.K. assassination records. He is, in fact, a subject-matter ignoramus, as I set forth in the lengthy enclosure I wrote for our history. When you read it you will see that it is thoroughly documented in detail and at length. How you deceived, misled and misinformed those who trust your Law Review!

You can not, of course, <sup>remove</sup> from the minds of those who trust your publication, all the “delusion,” about that assassination that so many find less troubling than the readily available truth which is in the **official evidence**.

It is unfortunate that no effort was made prior to the publication to learn whether Hall knew what he wrote about. You will see he did not.

Hall identified me as one who wrote two books about the assassination when by then I had published nine of them. He identified me as a conspiracy theorist in my writing, which was a gross and ignorant lie. He did identify me as a Maryland writer which made checking on and with me easy, but, those responsible for that issue did not bother to check at all. Perhaps they too, preferred the “delusion.”

But the truth is that I am alone among those who wrote about that assassination who has, from the first, restricted himself to the **official evidence**, what the Warren Commission published to begin with, ~~rather~~ <sup>rather</sup> than what else it had stashed away in the 200 cubic feet of records it left. By then extensive use of FOIA or the Freedom of Information Act, and the dozens or more lawsuits under it, I also got and used records of agencies like the F.B.I. and the C.I.A. that had been withheld as ~~they~~ <sup>they</sup> were originally classified as **TOP SECRET**.

When the Act was amended in 1974, as you will see in the attached, I became "Andy Jackson's one determined man" who became a majority when the Congress cited one of my lawsuits as requiring the amending of the investigatory files' exemption of that Act. It was the sole surviving Kennedy brother who saw to it that the legislative history would be clear on this (exhibit 51, page 164 of the enclosed text). The Supreme Court refused to grant cert but the Congress heeded the record and without mention of it in a single newspaper, I made the system work. As I did all those FOIA lawsuits!

That is not what Hall says is theorizing conspiracies. It is difficult and costly to search for fact, for truth, for evidence. Consistent with the intent of the Congress, from the time I obtained the first of what grew into a third of a million pages, I gave and have always given to writers and students freely and unsupervised access to all those records and use of our copier.

( Oh my, the thesis material that is in those records, I tell you Dean! When I can no longer make them available here at my home, they will always be part of the free and public archive at Hood College, in Frederick, Maryland. As long as I live, I am now 84 and have been lucky to survive quite a few illnesses that are usually fatal, I can and do direct the students to those materials. Dr. Gerald McKnight, Chair of Hood's History Department will, I am sure, be glad to tell you about Hall's dishonesties about me and my work.)

Rather than being the kind of writer your issue represents, based on your misplaced trust of Hall, of all the many in official positions, of whom I have written about critically, including members and staff of the Warren Commission, F.B.I., and others, thirty-three years after my first book appeared, I have yet to get from <sup>ANY OF</sup> them a single call or letter complaining that I had been unfair or inaccurate in anything I wrote about him. You will see in exhibit 60, page 201, a member of the Warren Commission had a high opinion of my work and encouraged it until his death. That was the most conservative of the members, Senator Richard B. Russell. Senator John Sherman Cooper of Kentucky, also a commission member, was in agreement with Senator Russell's disagreement with the Warren Commission Report.

In writing the preface to the first book on the Warren Commission, the first of my Whitewash series, I began it saying:

"This is a story like no other in our history. Perhaps it is unique in all history. It is the story of a most odious event...."

I ~~am~~ then was referring to that assassination and the investigation of it. Also odious, although thirty-three years ago I was not aware of it, is what was done to suppress the strong objections within the Warren Commission to its basic conclusion, deception and the trickery that was used to keep all that secret.

Most people do not stop to think about it this way, but under our system the assassination of any president, regardless of the intent of any assassin or assassins is a de facto coup d'etat. This is inevitable in this country.

Your Law Review publication of Hall's article supports that coup d'etat, whatever was in the minds of its editors.

What they did is what I sincerely hope is not what Maryland teaches those who will become lawyers- to publish anything at all without checking at all of what seems to be attractive. Aside from all else that is wrong with the Hall article, it defames me professionally. As any examination of my work establishes and as many professors will attest, especially those who use my books in their teaching. I hope the Law Review will find some way of correcting this.

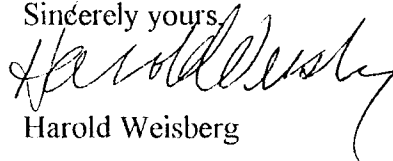
I do not assume that anyone on the Law Review or any professor of law will have the interest, but I have a 10 am, medical appointment at the Johns Hopkins' Outpatient Center on Tuesday, September 9, 1997. <sup>for a hr</sup> I will be driven ~~therefore~~ I will be glad to meet with any who might want to question me after my medical appointment.

The record is tragically clear, beginning when J.F.K. was assassinated, all the institutions of our society began to fail and those in any way then involved have failed since then.

Hall has now added Maryland to those failures by those who extend invitations to deliver the Soboloff lectures and now with this article in the Maryland Law Review.

I regret very much that those who heard that lecture and those who read this <sup>Law Review</sup> ~~publication~~ article have been so seriously misinformed about so important an event in our history as well as about the responsibilities of citizens in the wake of such events.

Sincerely yours,



Harold Weisberg

P.S. I write to you separately in the event you use any of the foregoing because I am feeble, wanting to avoid all possible controversies that can waste me or accomplish nothing, but, it does bear on the Hall ignorance and prejudice and the injustice of the Law Review article to me.

When because of health limitations it was no longer possible for me to pursue bringing suppressed information to light through the FOIA lawsuits, first it became difficult then unsafe for me to consult all those records which are filed in our basement. I then redirected my work to what I could do without access to that treasury of documentation. I decided to try to perfect another aspect of this tragic event and what followed it for our history. That took the form of debunking the excess, the theorizers of both sides of the controversy. I have not kept count, but, I believe there are book-length commentaries on more than a dozen of those most prominent on both sides. There are at least a million words of **documented debunking** in manuscript for our history.

Where possible, I have distributed copies of these manuscripts to some of the authentic scholars in the field- historians, sociologists and a lawyer who is seeking to add to the archive left by a member of the commission and to others not of academe who are writing and researching in the field.

It is in fact the complete opposite of what Hall got your Law Review to publish. It can be inspected.



The act that established the Assassination Records and Review Board states that when it ends, its work and all its records must be publicly accessible. I am sending the board a copy of the enclosure for its records.

Harold Weisberg

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'HW', located to the right of the typed name 'Harold Weisberg'.

Dear Dean Gifford,

My apologies.

Because my typing is poor I asked a friend to retype the letter to you. Some of it was not clear to her. I had <sup>intended</sup> what she has as a postscript to be on a separate page in the event you decide to show this to others.

Harold Weisberg

Mr. David Marwell, executive director  
ARAB  
600 E St., NW, 2d floor  
Washington, DC 20530

Harold Weisberg  
7627 Old Receiver Rd.  
Frederick, MD 21702

7/26/97

Dear Mr. Marwell,

Your board was created to bring to light information about the assassination of President Kennedy, not about all the theories and conjectures, official and unofficial. In your press releases you have sought to give the impression that you will restore public confidence in the government's word. You were created because about nine out of ten Americans did not believe the official explanation of that assassination, by the polls of which I am aware. Yet all you have done is based on the assumption that the official explanation is the unquestionable and unquestioned fact when the exact opposite is true and explains the widespread refusal to believe the government's explanation. Or, it is simply not possible for you to meet your obligations and it could not have been possible when you begin by assuming what by the official evidence itself is more than untrue - is impossible.

Consistent with this is the virtual campaign against all criticisms of the unacceptable and unaccepted official assassination mythology by board member Dean <sup>in it</sup> Kermit Hall. ~~It is~~ he flaunts his ignorance of both the assassination the records of which he is supposed to see are disclosed and of his academic specialty, our history, including the history he has lived through. In the latter I refer to his incredible display of this ignorance along with no little prejudice in what he wrote for the Newsletter of the Organization of American Historians. I wrote him with regard to part of that, without response. Not that I expected any. I also sent a copy to your office so that, in accord with your obligations under the Act that created you, it would be made public when you finish your work. It is an important part of the record for the people to be able to know in the future what your board did ~~add~~ knew and reflected. to say nothing of what it learned, did not learn and indeed, refused to learn during the course of its life.

Dean Hall also got to deliver the Soboleff address, rather prestigious in Maryland, and then, busy as he is, he, according to the Maryland Law Review first issue of this year, wrote an article for it of more than 20,000 words. In both he was critical of those who do not accept the official assassination mythology and have written about it, including me. That he remains a subject-matter ignoramus after all his supposed experience and learning on the board is shocking. I have addressed his article, documented what I wrote and sent to the dean of the law school, and include a copy to you that others know should be in your records and will seek to be sure of. If it is not there you will have another scandal. And <sup>add</sup> ~~adding~~ to public disenchantment. Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Mr. David Marwell, executive director  
ARMB  
600 E St., NW, 2d floor  
Washington, DC 20530

Harold Weisberg  
7627 Old Receiver Rd.  
Frederick, MD 21702

7/26/97

Dear Mr. Marwell,

Your board was created to bring to light information about the assassination of President Kennedy, not about all the theories and conjectures, official and unofficial. In your press releases you have sought to give the impression that you will restore public confidence in the government's word. You were created because about nine out of ten Americans did not believe the official explanation of that assassination, by the polls of which I am aware. Yet all you have done is based on the assumption that the official explanation is the unquestionable and unquestioned fact when the exact opposite is true and explains the widespread refusal to believe the government's explanation. Or, it is simply not possible for you to meet your obligations and it could not have been possible when you begin by assuming what by the official evidence itself is more than untrue - is impossible.

Consistent with this is the virtual campaign against all criticisms of the unacceptable and unaccepted official assassination mythology by board member Dean <sup>in it</sup> Kermit Hall. ~~It is~~ he flaunts his ignorance of both the assassination the records of which he is supposed to see are disclosed and of his academic specialty, our history, including the history he has lived through. In the latter I refer to his incredible display of this ignorance along with no little prejudice in what he wrote for the Newsletter of the Organization of American Historians. I wrote him with regard to part of that, without response. Not that I expected any. I also sent a copy to your office so that, in accord with your obligations under the Act that created you, it would be made public when you finish your work. It is an important part of the record for the people to be able to know in the future what your board did and knew and reflected. to say nothing of what it learned, did not learn and indeed, refused to learn during the course of its life.

Dean Hall also got to deliver the Soboleff address, rather prestigious in Maryland, and then, busy as he is, he, according to the Maryland Law Review first issue of this year, wrote an article for it of more than 20,000 words. In both he was critical of those who do not accept the official assassination mythology and have written about it, including me. That he remains a subject-matter ignoramus after all his supposed experience and learning on the board is shocking. I have addressed his article, documented what I wrote and sent to the dean of the law school, and include a copy to you that others know should be in your records and will seek to be sure of. If it is not there you will have another scandal. And <sup>add</sup> ~~adding~~ to public disenchantment. Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Mr. David Marwell, executive director  
ARMB  
600 E St., NW, 2d floor  
Washington, DC 20530

Harold Weisberg  
7627 Old Receiver Rd.  
Frederick, MD 21702

7/26/97

Dear Mr. Marwell,

Your board was created to bring to light information about the assassination of President Kennedy, not about all the theories and conjectures, official and unofficial. In your press releases you have sought to give the impression that you will restore public confidence in the government's word. You were created because about nine out of ten Americans did not believe the official explanation of that assassination, by the polls of which I am aware. Yet all you have done is based on the assumption that the official explanation is the unquestionable and unquestioned fact when the exact opposite is true and explains the widespread refusal to believe the government's explanation. Or, it is simply not possible for you to meet your obligations and it could not have been possible when you begin by assuming what by the official evidence itself is more than untrue - is impossible.

Consistent with this is the virtual campaign against all criticisms of the unacceptable and unaccepted official assassination mythology by board member Dean <sup>in it</sup> Kermit Hall. ~~It is~~ he flaunts his ignorance of both the assassination the records of which he is supposed to see are disclosed and of his academic specialty, our history, including the history he has lived through. In the latter I refer to his incredible display of this ignorance along with no little prejudice in what he wrote for the Newsletter of the Organization of American Historians. I wrote him with regard to part of that, without response. Not that I expected any. I also sent a copy to your office so that, in accord with your obligations under the Act that created you, it would be made public when you finish your work. It is an important part of the record for the people to be able to know in the future what your board did ~~add~~ knew and reflected. to say nothing of what it learned, did not learn and indeed, refused to learn during the course of its life.

Dean Hall also got to deliver the Soboleff address, rather prestigious in Maryland, and then, busy as he is, he, according to the Maryland Law Review first issue of this year, wrote an article for it of more than 20,000 words. In both he was critical of those who do not accept the official assassination mythology and have written about it, including me. That he remains a subject-matter ignoramus after all his supposed experience and learning on the board is shocking. I have addressed his article, documented what I wrote and sent to the dean of the law school, and include a copy to you that others know should be in your records and will seek to be sure of. If it is not there you will have another scandal. And <sup>add</sup> ~~adding~~ to public disenchantment. Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Mr. David Marwell, executive director  
ARMB  
600 E St., NW, 2d floor  
Washington, DC 20030

Harold Weisberg  
7627 Old Receiver Rd.  
Frederick, MD 21702

7/26/97

Dear Mr. Marwell,

Your board was created to bring to light information about the assassination of President Kennedy, not about all the theories and conjectures, official and unofficial. In your press releases you have sought to give the impression that you will restore public confidence in the government's word. You were created because about nine out of ten Americans did not believe the official explanation of that assassination, by the polls of which I am aware. Yet all you have done is based on the assumption that the official explanation is the unquestionable and unquestioned fact when the exact opposite is true and explains the widespread refusal to believe the government's explanation. Or, it is simply not possible for you to meet your obligations and it could not have been possible when you begin by assuming what by the official evidence itself is more than untrue - is impossible.

Consistent with this is the virtual campaign against all criticisms of the unacceptable and unaccepted official assassination mythology by board member Dean <sup>IN IT</sup> Kermit Hall. ~~It is~~ he flaunts his ignorance of both the assassination the records of which he is supposed to see are disclosed and of his academic specialty, our history, including the history he has lived through. In the latter I refer to his incredible display of this ignorance along with no little prejudice in what he wrote for the Newsletter of the Organization of American Historians. I wrote him with regard to part of that, without response. Not that I expected any. I also sent a copy to your office so that, in accord with your obligations under the Act that created you, it would be made public when you finish your work. It is an important part of the record for the people to be able to know in the future what your board did and knew and reflected. to say nothing of what it learned, did not learn and indeed, refused to learn during the course of its life.

Dean Hall also got to deliver the Soboleff address, rather prestigious in Maryland, and then, busy as he is, he, according to the Maryland Law Review first issue of this year, wrote an article for it of more than 20,000 words. In both he was critical of those who do not accept the official assassination mythology and have written about it, including me. That he remains a subject-matter ignoramus after all his supposed experience and learning on the board is shocking. I have addressed his article, documented what I wrote and sent to the dean of the law school, and include a copy to you that others know should be in your records and will seek to be sure of. If it is not there you will have another scandal. And <sup>could</sup> ~~adding~~ to public disenchantment. Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Mr. David Marwell, executive director  
ARMB  
600 E St., NW, 2d floor  
Washington, DC 20530

Harold Weisberg  
7627 Old Receiver Rd.  
Frederick, MD 21702  
7/26/97

Dear Mr. Marwell,

Your board was created to bring to light information about the assassination of President Kennedy, not about all the theories and conjectures, official and unofficial. In your press releases you have sought to give the impression that you will restore public confidence in the government's word. You were created because about nine out of ten Americans did not believe the official explanation of that assassination, by the polls of which I am aware. Yet all you have done is based on the assumption that the official explanation is the unquestionable and unquestioned fact when the exact opposite is true and explains the widespread refusal to believe the government's explanation. Or, it is simply not possible for you to meet your obligations and it could not have been possible when you begin by assuming what by the official evidence itself is more than untrue - is impossible.

Consistent with this is the virtual campaign against all criticisms of the unacceptable and unaccepted official assassination mythology by board member Dean <sup>NYIT</sup> Kermit Hall. ~~It is~~ he flaunts his ignorance of both the assassination the records of which he is supposed to see are disclosed and of his academic specialty, our history, including the history he has lived through. In the latter I refer to his incredible display of this ignorance along with no little prejudice in what he wrote for the Newsletter of the Organization of American Historians. I wrote him with regard to part of that, without response. Not that I expected any. I also sent a copy to your office so that, in accord with your obligations under the Act that created you, it would be made public when you finish your work. It is an important part of the record for the people to be able to know in the future what your board did ~~and~~ knew and reflected. to say nothing of what it learned, did not learn and indeed, refused to learn during the course of its life.

Dean Hall also got to deliver the Soboleff address, rather prestigious in Maryland, and then, busy as he is, he, according to the Maryland Law Review first issue of this year, wrote an article for it of more than 20,000 words. In both he was critical of those who do not accept the official assassination mythology and have written about it, including me. That he remains a subject-matter ignoramus after all his supposed experience and learning on the board is shocking. I have addressed his article, documented what I wrote and sent to the dean of the law school, and include a copy to you that others know should be in your records and will seek to be <sup>y</sup> sure of. If it is not there you will have another scandal. And <sup>could</sup> ~~adding~~ to public disenchantment. Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Mr. David Marwell, executive director  
ARMB  
600 E St., NW, 2d floor  
Washington, DC 20030

Harold Weisberg  
7627 Old Receiver Rd.  
Frederick, MD 21702

7/26/97

Dear Mr. Marwell,

Your board was created to bring to light information about the assassination of President Kennedy, not about all the theories and conjectures, official and unofficial. In your press releases you have sought to give the impression that you will restore public confidence in the government's word. You were created because about nine out of ten Americans did not believe the official explanation of that assassination, by the polls of which I am aware. Yet all you have done is based on the assumption that the official explanation is the unquestionable and unquestioned fact when the exact opposite is true and explains the widespread refusal to believe the government's explanation. Or, it is simply not possible for you to meet your obligations and it could not have been possible when you begin by assuming what by the official evidence itself is more than untrue -- is impossible.

Consistent with this is the virtual campaign against all criticisms of the unacceptable and unaccepted official assassination mythology by board member Dean <sup>Hermit</sup> Hall. ~~It is~~ he flaunts his ignorance of both the assassination the records of which he is supposed to see are disclosed and of his academic specialty, our history, including the history he has lived through. In the latter I refer to his incredible display of this ignorance along with no little prejudice in what he wrote for the Newsletter of the Organization of American Historians. I wrote him with regard to part of that, without response. Not that I expected any. I also sent a copy to your office so that, in accord with your obligations under the Act that created you, it would be made public when you finish your work. It is an important part of the record for the people to be able to know in the future what your board did and knew and reflected. to say nothing of what it learned, did not learn and indeed, refused to learn during the course of its life.

Dean Hall also got to deliver the Soboleff address, rather prestigious in Maryland, and then, busy as he is, he, according to the Maryland Law Review first issue of this year, wrote an article for it of more than 20,000 words. In both he was critical of those who do not accept the official assassination mythology and have written about it, including me. That he remains a subject-matter ignoramus after all his supposed experience and learning on the board is shocking. I have addressed his article, documented what I wrote and sent to the dean of the law school, and include a copy to you that others know should be in your records and will seek to be sure of. If it is not there you will have another scandal. And <sup>add</sup> ~~adding~~ to public disenchantment. Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg



Mr. Steven D. Hill  
Sr. V.P. Trade & Reference Pub. Division  
Houghton Mifflin  
222 Berkeley St.,  
Boston, MA 02116

Harold Weisberg  
7627 Old Receiver Rd.  
Frederick, MD 21702

8/4/97

Dear Mr. Hill,

In this letter and what accompanies it I ask nothing of you. I seek only to inform you. I believe this serves Houghton Mifflin's interest and that of the country. If I were not certain of this I would not at this stage of my life be taking this time and going to this trouble. I am 84 and have been so successful in overcoming so long a list of normally fatal illnesses several of my doctors state their "amazement" when they see me. These illnesses have left me feeble, however, and as you can see, from them my typing is bad and I apologize for that.

I seek to inform you because it has been announced that you are to publish a book supposedly on the Warren Commission next year, by Max Holland.

As to my qualifications on this subject, I wrote the first book on that Commission and that assassination 32 years ago. I have written eight on that subject since then. These are all severely critical of many on the Commission and in the executive agencies but to this day I have yet to ~~get~~<sup>GET</sup> a letter or phone call from any of them complaining of either unfairness or inaccuracy. In one of a dozen or so lawsuits I filed to obtain withheld assassination information the FBI stated that I knew more about the subject than anyone working for it. The pertinent pages of that filing are attached as Exhibit 3.

Through those lawsuits I obtained about a quarter of a million JFK Assassination and Commission records. I have always made them freely available to all writing in the field, including Max Holland and his former partner, Kai Bird, as you will also see in the enclosure.

Most people do not think in these terms and I never hear anyone say ~~in~~ it but the fact is that in this country the assassination of any president is a de facto coup d'etat. I regard that as the most subversive of crimes in a society like ours. I believe it cannot be addressed responsibly other than on the basis of what <sup>official</sup> fact is available. It cannot be addressed responsibly by those who regard themselves as deep thinkers and of intellectual endowment denied others without using this fact, not any theory, as the basis for what their self-concepts and beliefs and perhaps preconceptions persuades them to put on paper and use to influence others. It is not possible to address the Commission without the most detailed knowledge of its record and of the information it had, its files, both about the assassination rather than official behavior or special interpretations of that.

As Max Holland did in American Heritage last year.

In it he argued, literally, that the Commission was right because it was wrong!

And that over what had no relationship to the assassination itself!

This nonsense, which American Heritage stated he was expanding into a book, was largely cribbed by a member of the Assassination Records Review Board. That and what he wrote about me led me to write the lengthy enclosure copies of which I have sent to that board, which is required to make all its records public when it ends its work, and to the dean of the law school whose Review published that article, which is partisan at the least and is permeated by subject-matter ignorance.


As you will also see in what I enclose, three Members of the Warren Commission disagreed with the basis of the Report, two leaving records that they were adamant about this. They were, as you will see, deceived into believing that their disagreement was incorporated in the Report, as it was not. On this also you will find exhibits, official documents.

I had a relationship with one of those Members, Senator Richard Russell. All I have published is without any theories and comes only from the official assassination information. To emphasize that all of this was public I used as exhibits pages of my books with the official citations. The books, of course, did much of the work for others who research the subject.

Beginning with the first of my Whitewash series, which dates to 1965, all I have published is the official fact about the assassination. There is nothing imagined in any of these nine books, which remain standard in the field. This is quite unlike what Holland wrote in American Heritage. That was what he imagines and there is not a single fact about the assassination in it. What he imagines has no relationship of any kind to the assassination and it was not a factor of any kind in the Commission's Report.

I do hope you will read this. If you have any questions, to the degree now possible for me I will answer them.

If you do not want to keep what I enclose, I will appreciate the return of it because xeroxing is a problem for me and because others come here to use my files. They will be a permanent, free collegiate archive when I can no longer make them available to others.

Sincerely,  
  
Harold Weisberg

On the previous page I say that what Holland imagines was not a factor in the Commission's Report. That understates too much. It was not a factor of any kind in the Commission's work. At Holland's request I provided him with transcripts of the Commission's Top Secret executive sessions. They were so secret even the staff was not allowed to be present. There was not even a mention of ~~it~~ what Holland imagines into a book in any of them, as he knew. As the enclosed reports.

The enclosed is a copy of a retyped rough draft of one of quite a few manuscripts in rough draft form that I leave as a record for our history, with deposits in a number of colleges and universities.

No publisher commissioned any book other than in support of the official assassination mythology, significant an even as that assassination was in our national life. The first book, nine, got over 100 rejections internationally without a single adverse editorial comment. In the end that made me the country's smallest publisher. With this the publisher and the major-media attitude, when it became impossible for me to continue publishing my books I started preparing these manuscript as records for our history.

I hope you will not contribute to what we <sup>have</sup> had too much of, deceiving and misleading the people on this subject. Any support of the Warren Commission or of its Report inevitably does this. I think the documentation of the enclosed manuscript should reflect this to you.