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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, <sup>rather</sup> ~~rather~~ 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>dearly</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.

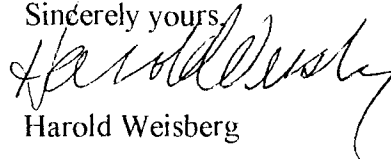
I do not assume that anyone on the Law Review or any professor of law will have the interest, but I have a 10 am, medical appointment at the Johns Hopkins' Outpatient Center on Tuesday, September 9, 1997. <sup>to which</sup> I will be driven ~~therefore~~ I will be glad to meet with any who might want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