

2/21/73

Allan R. Rosenberg
53 State St.
Boston, Mass

Dear Allan,

From the time of the JFK assassination until now I have devoted myself almost exclusively to investigating and writing about it. I began with a contract that was broken while the publisher was drooling into the till, found pressures against opening the subject so great I had to invent the underground book to bring my first out, made a best-selling success out of that book and the subsequent inexpensive reprint, and have been cheated out of most of the money due in both forms.

If this doesn't sound paranoid enough, I have a box full of carbon copies of CIA surveillance on me, have enough indicating the FBI was engaged in similar endeavors so that they will not even make pro forma denial, have sued the Department of Justice to obtain suppressed evidence (successfully- summary judgement, believe it or not), and now have pending in the federal court of appeals in Washington what will be a precedent case under the Freedom of Information law, 5 U.S.C. 551. Having established my willingness to use, I was able to obtain significant evidence that had been withheld from the Warren Commission where officialdom considered more attention would be attracted to it if I went to court. Most people who consider themselves wise and well-informed can't believe that what did happen could happen. There is just about nothing in the official mythology that is true save that the president is dead, and that took no such investigation to establish. My work is actually the most definitive exposure of the FBI yet, and I am familiar with the literature going back to Max Lowenthal's day. It is this rather than liberal affection for Warren that accounts for what I think amounts to official sanction of this crookedness that has been financially ruinous to Lil and me. What we saw in our Senate investigating days is moral and decent by comparison. Mail fraud is a commonplace, the postal inspectors say so, and when it gets to a higher level it is stopped, even correspondence.

As a result of all of this, here we are at 60, with about \$50,000 due us in New York City alone, and about \$35,000 in debt, yet unable to do anything because we haven't the money to engage lawyers. If you can refer me to a New York lawyer, I would appreciate it. The proofs there are contracts, correspondence and even copies of editions never accounted for. While publishers owe us most of what is owed us, book wholesalers also owe us what for us is large sums. The total is about \$15,000. Not one of the larger ones ever paid on time or in full. With one, near you, there is due about two thousand dollars.

Aaron Rabinowitz, of A&A book wholesalers, Holbrook, is unique among the unscrupulous in his business in having and confessing "principle". His were against selling any book critical of Warren, as he saw it. Actually, mine is the work closest to defending Warren personally. You know, as I do, how these things work. We learned at the same place and time. A&A returned most of the books they bought and didn't pay for. The books were ruined in trucking. We informed A&A promptly, asking them to claim against their trucker and had the local trucker inspect and record the damage. Scannel, the Boston trucker, gave A&A a copy of the record it made on accepting the shipment, not the ultimate record, the one recording the damage, and A&A not only did not detect this deceit, they ignored me when I wrote them pointing it out. Recently, in desperation, I wrote them again about this, sending them copies of the relevant documents, without response.

When A&A was unresponsive, I consulted a local attorney. He told me that because the books were the property of A&A, whether or not they had paid me for them, I could not sue the local trucker who in any event does not do ~~this~~ business in this state.

It is my hope that, unless the statute has run, A&A will pay if they hear from a lawyer and will attempt to get recovery from their trucker, who did deceive them. Would you be willing to make such a phone call and anything else you consider worthwhile and take your fee from the collection? If you would, I'll make copies of enough of the correspondence, receipts, bills, etc. and send them to you.

I don't know if you have any interest in the men with whom we worked. There is not much I can report about them. I see Charlie Clift infrequently. He will soon be resigning from the FCC. Luke Wilson moved to Italy and then moved back, according to what Charlie told me a month ago. Allen Saylor took it very hard when Frances died. We saw them often then. He is now in Phoenix, teaching, having overcome the curse of being a premature anti-fascist and an investigator for our committee. The last time I saw Charlie Kramer was the night he came to my home to borrow my research for a book on the Dies committee to use in defense of the Hollywood Ten, one of whom was with him. I never saw either or my book research again. The last time I saw Flato's byline, it was over a Hongkong dateline, after a trip to China. He reported on current Chinese medical practises.

After I won my fight with Dies, one he, not I, started - you may not recall, but I got his agent convicted - life could never be normal for Lil and me. Each time I started a new career, each with success, the long arm reached out. Investigating the FBI, and that is the crux of investigating the investigation of all the political assassinations, and even suing them as part of it, creates problems I am sure do not have to be explained to you. As of now, what it amounts to is completed, sensational but unpublishable books, a number on which I continue work whenever I can, and what can be a remarkable archive for some university or law school if the intellectuals could ever shed their blinders. Aside from hours and hours of tape-recorded interviews - almost none of the official witnesses were unwilling to talk and answer the unasked questions - uncountable pages of suppressed official evidence of all kinds, I have so many thousands of pages of FBI reports there are more than 2,000 I have not yet had time to read. I have worked intensively. For the first seven years I didn't average four hours sleep a night. I have now stretched this to six hours. The yield of this work is such that when I placed in Richard Russell's hand proof of what had been done even to him, behind his back, he broke a life-long friendship with LBJ. Unlike the liberals, Russell was willing to talk to me. So, for that matter, has Dallas officialdom. If one is to ruin himself in what he conceives as a dedication to a decent society, I doubt if there is a more fascinating way.

If you ever get to Washington, we are but an hour away, in the mountains near Camp David. We share five acres with small wild animals that tolerate us and, of course, with the bunk. Our accommodations are not de luxe, but I think you would find them adequate and more relaxing than a hotel. The superhighway from Washington passes three miles away.

We hope things have gone well with you. And thanks for anything you can do.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg