

Rt. 7, Frederick, Md. 21701

October 5, 1967

Dear Joe,

By now, I think perhaps you realize that you did me a considerable injustice. I am writing not to complain but to tell you something else that has just happened that, together with the entire history of interferences with taking the story of what happened when their President was killed to the people, I hope you would like to air. I have not yet discussed it on any program, anywhere.

We have just moved (the new phone is 301:2 473-8186 - now a private line). There is more than the usual chaos because we have more than the usual accumulations and have tried to continue normal work. I've finished the ms of the fifth book, POST MORTEM and try and mix the regular work of a very small publisher, a writer, and a husband with a just-moved establishment. Every available bit of space in the basement is crammed with cartons of our possessions and my investigative files going back to the 1930s. So, in today's mail, I got a notice from Reymar, Monrovia, Calif., that they had, without consultation, returned their entire stock of PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH. It is obvious from the total that they made no effort to distribute them, as it is from my previous California mail. As I believe Hal told you, I plan to go to California soon in an effort to discuss my book, particularly OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS. So, there will be no copies of the only book to tell the people what the government actually did to suppress the existing pictures of the assassination (let me add here that an accountant, Richard Sprague, one of my early "fans" but whom I have never met, has taken over the photographic aspect of my work and is doing magnificently, probably better than I could have with it, making the most important discoveries). There will not be a copy of the book that has the actual picture doctored by J. Edgar Hoover and misrepresented by the Commission staff so that neither the members of the Commission nor the public would know it shows that sixth floor window and no Oswald, no rifle, in ~~it~~ at the moment of the assassination.

Without doubt, the coordinated campaign by the wire services and the TV nets befuddled the people and diminished the sale of all books on the subject. But that is not to say that now books ever sell or can, that they are returned before any kind of a sales effort can be launched -and with none by the wholesaler.

Going along with this, Dell not only broke their agreement for OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS, they have yet to give me even an accounting of the sales of either WHITEWASH or WHITEWASH II. For some months I have been getting redundant reports of their failure to even offer them for sale. For example, ABC's morning TV show in Chicago called me several months ago, to air me by phone after they read the books. I told them Dell had them and that certainly in Chicago copies should be readily available. They phoned back to say they had checked six prime outlets and couldn't get a single copy. I personally checked 15 airports in a two-month period and found the books in only one (and then only one book). Of course, no accounting, no royalties. They also do not answer letters, engage in no promotion or advertising, which is just not the way publishing works.

As you will see in the prologue to OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS, although the ms was legibly and properly addressed, and it was insured for \$200.00, it just didn't reach my New York agent, John Starr (HAL-3266). The night before I left for New Orleans, to testify before the grand jury, I had to package the carbon intended for my Italian publisher, to send to him. It went to just the right wrong substation, developed what must be a paper magnetism, picked up the missing copy, and John got them both together, even though the Postmaster had assured him the ms was not there. About two months ago I asked John to mail it to the Washington office of the Times of London, which wanted the extra copy. In four weeks it didn't arrive. Both John and the Times instituted



checks at the Post Office in Washington and New York, with negative results. Then I got a package from the Washington Postmaster, telling me the ms, which he therewith returned to me, had been received in Washington without any wrapper! They have exploited fabled American inventiveness as it never was before. They have manufactured a post-office denuder which can -and in this case did - remove the outer manila wrapping and in the inner cardboard box, without marking a single one of the 600 typed pages enclosed! There was not a single, dogeared page, Joe! So, I had it hand-delivered to Ian MacDonald in Washington. He read it, forming a very favorable impression. At my request, he sent it by registered mail a week ago to Jonnx Christian, Box 2850, San Francisco, who has been trying to help me. I had a call from John last evening. He hasn't yet gotten the ms.

That particular copy, the ribbon, copy, has never once been properly delivered by the Post Office. Some months ago, when the interferences became just too intolerable, I made formal complaint. There was an investigation, like the Warren Commission's. It turned up not a single one of the many undelivered books we had mailed out (all with printed return-addresses and the assurance of payment of return postage), not a single case of the perhaps a hundred in which two packages tied together had lost one in the mail (again, despite the return address), not a single case in which the P.O. had set the undelivered merchandise aside for sale, as they do. I was assured this is merely the absolute zenith of customary inefficiency achieved in the glorious tradition of Franklin and based on continuous experience back to that era.

I could go on and on-how two months of mail all reached my English agent on a single day (having cost me British publication of WHITEWASH), how the complete ms of WHITEWASH II never reached him, how the return of the incomplete ms was accompanied by overt and recorded opening of the package, and of the many things that people mail me that do not reach.

This adds up to what a Congressman told me in mid 1965 (when I wouldn't believe it), that I am being watched closely and followed behind. I think it is not less than outrageous that such things can and do happen in our country. It is so blatant that in November 1965 J. Edgar Hoover issued a press statement refuting charges then not yet made, mine exclusively but never made in public. They did not appear until the next month, with publication of WHITEWASH II. He did not answer what I said, could not, but pretended to. I phoned the FBI for a copy of the press release. No mere functionary could take care of that. It required that I speak to a special assistant. This I did. He promised me a copy. You know, I paid my share of the cost of that copy and of the salaries of all involved. I never got it. I wrote Hoover personally, figuring why bother with the mere, fallible mortals? He has yet to answer, yet to send me a copy. Of course, every word appeared in the New York Times. But where I wanted an official copy to quote verbatim, it was denied me.

My mail, from both average citizens and those working in the field, tells me that those who read PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH consider it perhaps the best yet. But unless Paul Elder has a few copies, and except for the very few bookstores to whom we sent, unordered, a very small supply, still have them, no citizen of California (or west of the east coast) can get a copy in a bookstore. How meaningful is "freedom of the press"? Is it, in fact, anything but a fraud?

For practical purposes, people can get this book only from me. They have been denied knowledge of it because the media have refused to mention it. Without exception, every radio and TV station and net - have asked for fairness-doctrine time to respond to the blatant lies of that lickspittle Roberts has refused it! Now what he did, actually, was not only entirely false but also actionable. It was libellous. CBS even plagiarized. They made no reference to me or my work, although it is I who first suggested what they ultimately did (Hal has some of the correspondence), save for their corrupt doctrine. Then they took from the bottom of page 47 of WHITEWASH what they claimed as their own new discovery in the Zapruder film, the bit about the shaking of the camera at frame 190.



This appeared in my work alone. I know of no one else who had discovered it and not published it. In addition those numerous people on the CBS staff who read my books and were in touch with me (even asking for photocopies of documents I published, with file references, that they could not unassisted find), Les Midgley personally read the limited edition of WHITEWASH, as the request of his then superior and predecessor, Palmer Williams. Naturally, CBS is conspicuous in denying me a chance to answer the lies they have broadcast about me and my work.

Your new format and the blessing of sponsors may preclude anything as dramatic as what you did in late June 1966 (which was the first real effort by anyone to take the truth of the assassination, or at least a fair representation of the other than official side. However, I am asking that you consider airing the effort to suppress that continues and at the same time tell the people the only way they can get copies of the only book to print the once-secret documents, PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH. Here there are 160 pages of photographic reproduction of the kind of documents most Americans never in a lifetime see. I think it is important for citizens to know how their government functions, particularly in a Macbethian situation, when it is the government that came into office through the murder that did the investigating. This means the investigation, in effect, is by the government of itself. The Warren Commission amounts to the legitimizing of the Johnson administration.

That this is not idle you will understand when you see OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS, where the CIA involvement is clear. Don't take my word for it, phone Ian Macdonald or, if you have changed your opinion of him, Jim Garrison, for these are the only two given access to the book, save those in publishing circles. There you will see, for example, that Oswald used the return address of a group organized by the CIA. There also you will find reference to your show in December and what flowed from it, unchanged after you said what you did of me more recently.

Aside from what I sincerely believe this means to our country and about it today, this also is ruinous to me. Having fought the organized publishing interests and proved them wrong, I still have to publish my own books. Now that I have an agent, publishers will not touch my work still. The deal with Parallax is an unusual one. In order to not have to publish this book myself and go into debt on it, too, I gave up any advance or royalties for a share of the profit, if any. And I had to underwrite 50% of any loss! Free press! On a subject like New Orleans and the assassination. And what does Parallax face? Denial of their normal distribution! Please do not mention any names, for I do not want to hurt them. They are one of the very few houses that will publish controversial material. Simon and Schuster distributes for them. S&S will not touch this subject in any way save defense of the government. It is S&S who is represented by the unattributed quote in WHITEWASH, "We will make this the best-selling book of 1965". But in their defense, let me say that the Department of Justice had them in court on "Calories Don't Count", an apparently fraudulent book. Although there had been enthusiasms for WHITEWASH of every lower level, I can understand Shinkin's reluctance to wave a red flag under the charging bull.

This is long and rambling, made more so by the interruptions of having electricians in the home into which we have moved. I hope you understand what I am asking and can see you want to do it. I hope also that by this time you have gotten the second mailing of PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH and can see for yourself that I do not exaggerate its significance or content. I enclose a copy of the New York Times story on it, a rare news treatment of any book. There has been no other single newspaper mention. Can a book be worth 40 column inches as news to the New York Times and not worthy of a single other news story? No radio or TV show. No response from a single official to any of its serious accusations. And not worthy of a major wholesaler serving a major part of the country having it in stock after he has it there.

I will be gone all day the 10th and the 13th, but I expect to be away for only the briefest periods thereafter. Thanks for anything you can do and what in the end you have done. Sincerely, Harold Weisberg.