Route 8
Frederick, Md. 21701
April 30, 1975

Mr. Robert Blair Kaiser
P. O. Box 8487
Mammoth Lakes, Calif. 93546

Dear Bob:

Your letter of the 25th gets close to what I think is probably one of the things the great minds at Rolling Stone hold against me. I did accurately forecast the kind of piece you would inevitably do, what they would do with it, and that it would be hurtful, not to me personally, but to an understanding of a major turning point in history and its consequences.

I did not then anticipate prejudices or dishonesties at Rolling Stone. If I had, I would not have taken the time nor would I have offered them both the ancillary and distribution rights to WHITE-WASH IV. I have learned that in the field in which I work the sin least likely to be excused is that of being right.

It is not possible for me to accept your paragraph in which you claim not to "arrogate to myself" what you call "real expertise" in my field. It was not possible to make the selections and decisions without doing precisely that as you will find in my earilier communication to Rolling Stone. Unless you do, what basis have you for making a selection? What bad you have done is quite separate from any intent either of you may have had. You have again focused attention on those who have without principle exploited this subject and, whether or not deliberately, have done a Department of Disinformation job. That is quite separate from what you did or did not say about me.

I am aware of what the problems of making out are. This work has put and kept me in debt. I am also aware that each man makes his own decisions based on his own situation and needs as he personally perceives them; but I have never come to feel that it is right and proper to charge the victim of a rape with being an attractive nuisance. At this point your integrity is something about which you alone can make an effort. I would suggest a letter to Rolling Stone, which would not endear you and which they might well reject, might help you feel better about yourself even if they do reject it. What makes your piece even worse in effect is the disastrous influence those of whom you wrote so glowingly have had and now more than ever have on what can be known and done, not only about the assassinations but the many official misdeeds in their wake.

Last weekend there was a symposium sponsored by the New York University student bar association. I used the occasion for a speech in which, for the most part, I avoided names but in which I ticked off what from my knowledge and files is a very moderate sheep-and-goats thing. I was too weak (from the pneumonia and pleurisy from which I am hopefully but slowly recovering) to deliver it, so Jim Lesar read it for me. Those noble spirits so worthy of the Rolling Stone's attention

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turned off the video tape as soon as he began. This also reduced the light to point where he could barely read. If I thought for a moment that Rolling Stone was an honest publication by genuine human beings of decent social consciousness, I would offer a copy for editing into an article. If you want to read it, you are welcome to.

Good luck with Belli. If you had told me of this project when you were here, I might have been able to help you.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

P.O. Box 8487
Mammoth Lakes, Calif. 93546

25 April 1975

Dear Harold,

Life is short and the good people in this world (of whom you are one) are too few for us to fight.

I wish you could see the original piece I wrote for Rolling Stone. It said a lot of good things about you and Jim Lesar, gave you all the credit for breaking loose the Jan. 27 transcript and a lot of other things as well, gave credit to others, including Sylvia Meagher. Unfortunately, I don't have access to a Xerox machine up here in the mountains (where I am trying to finish a book on Mel Belli) so you'll just have to suspend your judgement until I can send you the original piece.

You are right, of course., A man of real integrity can simply object to any editing of his article. Like Alfred P. Doolittle, however, I can't afford that kind of stiffness in the short run. In the long run, of course, I will regret such compromises. But in the long run, I'll be dead and so will my family (two ex-wives, three children, a wife and three children) who, unfortunately, all have to eat and wear shoes and so forth.

I hope you also recognize that I arrogate to myself no real expertise in your field. I am a reporter, doing journalism. As such, I am only a broker between your ideas and the public.

As for the Sirhan case, you simply do not know what you are talking about. I put too much time and tears into that one for anyone, repeat, anyone to tell me that I fucked it up.

Best regards,

Robert Blair Kaiser

P.S. Hi, Jim Lesar knows, I found the Jan 27 transcript in the archives before I saw your whitewash II.