

4/29/75

Mr. Tom Susman, Counsel
Administrative Practises Subcommittee
Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Tom,

If I did not believe it important for you to be aware of the fact and opinion that follows I'd not now be writing because I have pneumonia and pleurisy.

The entire national attitude toward the JFK assassination has changed radically. The pressure for a new investigation is really great, and not just from anxious youth and the nuts, not all well-intended, who are commercializing it or those more able and no less self-seeking.

I had my first press conference in years last Thursday, in New York. I was there to participate in a gathering sponsored by the student bar association of NYU. There were at least 40 reporters present, in itself unusual. But what is unique is that in about two hours there was not a single snide suggestion, not a single nasty crack or question. Nor have I heard of a single broadcast in any way unfriendly or disparaging, and the electronic attention was heavy. As a measure of the responsible interest when there is responsible comment and information to quote, the New York CBS station has been using excerpts daily since. The last I heard was about 1:45 this morning, when I could not sleep.

My only reason for going was to try to direct all the interest and college energy away from those who are exploiting this and into responsible areas. I had a sheep-and-goats speech Jim Lesar had to read for me. This thing can easily get out of hand and the situation is hairy. There remain in the government and in positions of power those who bear heavy and direct responsibility for the faking of the investigation. It will make no difference to them where they can mislocate responsibility. The phoney investigation rather than the assassination itself has always been the focus of my work, if you have read it. So also has this been the thrust of every one of my FOI suits, filed and unnecessary in the end, as with the Memo of Transfer and the recent January 22 Executive Session transcript. (Jim or I can send you a copy if you'd care to read it. Or if anyone else would. It is significant.)

A new investigation figured prominently in the questions asked of me Thursday. I then said that the only way that seems to me to hold any promise is for the Congress to investigate the investigation. From the conclusions of my first book in mid-February 1965 this has been my view. This also is the last thing the federal agencies want, especially the FBI (more than the CIA) and the Department of Justice. If anyone wants I can go into the most elaborate detail on this. What I have already obtained in the new spectro suit is dynamite if it receives responsible attention because in and of itself is it complete disproof of the entire official account. (In my opinion there never was a real spectrographic testing and I have the most positive proof that the neutron activation analysis was by intent incomplete to the point of fakery. There are areas which do not require experts. I believe experts will add to what I've said.) When I have written assurance there is reluctance to give that I have been given 100% of the work that was done I'll be giving all this away in the hope of getting honest use by the media. I wish it were possible for me to approach some Member to do this. But I am not able to move and won't be until at least after Friday. And what energy I have I must use to help Jim Lesar prepare our next moves in the spectro case, interrogatories. We can make quite a record this way, aside from seeking more data.

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One of the results of my appearance in New York was to influence some of those who have been irresponsible. One phoned me last night with the report that the President's brain had been delivered to a new panel of expert, those of the Rockefeller Commission. If this is true I am fairly confident this will lead to still another whitewash of at least two forms. One will be the statement that the autopsy material holds no evidence of a shot from the front. This will appear to be probative. It will also be false. Another and perhaps the reason for delivery of the brain, which really means the left hemisphere, will be to permit the statement that it holds no evidence. I believe it extremely unlikely that this would be false. I do not think, based on what I know, that it is possible for that part of the brain to hold any evidence. There is, of course, always the chance that I have trusted information I should not have. Official information only.

Those who have been clamoring for the brain, especially Dr. Cyril Wecht, who I know well, will then defend themselves as best they can. I anticipate that this can take a number of forms, all including Kennedy suppression of evidence. And that today serves agency interest as much as it did when this was fabricated. They may even claim that a different hemisphere was substituted.

Making the Memo of Transfer available to me is not inconsistent with the foregoing. Particularly because of the risks run earlier in denying it to me and because by its nature it is so dubious a document. However, it not only is subject to this misuse, it was, if without public (press) attention, actually used this way at NYU by Wecht with the cry "Gimme that brain!"

The document itself is not faithful to the actual transferring, which was by the Secret Service, not Dr. Burkley. It also preceded by a year and a half the signing of the so-called letter agreement, which was not prepared by Burke Marshall, who signed. The press of the past is full of stories that the transfer was to Bobby and that thereafter he had possession of this material. If I have no personal knowledge, I have no reason to believe this is true and every reason to believe it is false. But the stories, complete with leaked accountings of the film, did appear. And the one Fred Graham wrote for the New York Times after Wecht was permitted access to the withheld material could not be more explicit on this. Prior to anyone's seeing this Fred called me. When he called me thereafter I taped our conversations. Graham has been used for this purpose twice to my knowledge by Rhoads personally, the first time when Rhoads begged him to ask for the letter agreement (denied to me) under FOI, which Fred had no intention of doing until solicited. Letting the doctors in to see this material followed Fred's normal inquiry after the lapse of the five years specified in the letter agreement. I am not saying Fred is some kind of conspirator. I am saying his reaction was predictable. How predictable the tape I made shows. Before anything happened I told Fred exactly what kind of story he would write and wherein it would be false and propaganda. It was easy to be precisely accurate. The realities permitted almost nothing else if one knew what they really were.

Today the situation is similar but much more hazardous and with greater existing interest. Moreover, I doubt if there is anyone still connected with the Senator who has any way of knowing what the facts are at least for the period prior to Marshall's signing the letter agreement. (I wrote all of this to him long ago, warned him repeatedly, but he was impervious. He may like me the less for it, but as of today I can't begin to understand how any competent lawyer could have signed such a document, not at least without some other and still secret record.) As an example of what I mean, both documents, the letter agreement and the Memo of Transfer both include what was not in any way Kennedy property and both saddle Kennedys, now the Senator, with responsibility for suppressing what is not only vital evidence but is evidence that totally disproves the official story. This is one of the reasons I have for so long been so anxious to be able to print Post Mortem. It lays the entire story out, with documents and with the significance of the evidence itself.

Sorry, I'm tiring too much, so I'll have to conclude, with apologies for the typos. Today there is a much more complicated situation.

Particularly with the legislative mandates to investigate the FBI.

And with the political attractiveness of calling for a re-investigation. I understand two new resolutions will be introduced in the House today. The representative of still another Congressman sought me out in New York.

The Rockefeller operation was never intended as other than a whitewash. Belin personally has one of the worst Warren Commission records. He personally suppressed evidence that could have ruptured the whole fabrication. I cited this evidence in New York and offered copies. No reporter wanted one. I do not think it is necessary to offer an opinion about the Rockefeller-Ford interest in all of this aspect. More, they can operate entirely in secret, as did the Warren Commission, and there will be no practical way of challenging whatever they will say on this.

Add to this the persistence of the effort to blame Bobby for the JFK assassination via Castro, as recently as yesterday morning, Dan Schorr on CBS-TV a.m. news. I think I sent you copies of my letters of protest to Anderson and Whitten. They are unanswered. But I recall no repetition there.

I regard the existing situation as bad and dangerous and believe that as it develops it will become worse and more dangerous.

If anyone wants to talk to me, I will be home except for a brief period Thursday, when I leave briefly for further X-rays and if they indicate a need to see the doctor whenever he says Friday. Until after then I am under injunction to stay home and take it easy.

I am aware of the problem of the partis pris. I am also confident that they are not the ones who can or will be hurt. I can't do anything about them. One of the great side tragedies in all of this is a series of misplaced trusts, not by any means all current.

Separately, I have come into possession of a document that does not state its purpose but I think was prepared for Mike Epstein. In my view and based on my knowledge I regard it as fraught with danger. It is by one of the more dependable of the "critics" but one also a political infant and one hungup in his own concepts. I'm not doing anything about it. I merely report to you. I regard that entire line as one leading to disaster and exculpation of the most guilty.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg