

August 7, 1967

Honorable Thomas H. Kuchel  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Kuchel:

Your letter of August 2 is no credit to your integrity, judgment, constituents, position or manhood. I asked you simple, straightforward questions. You answered not a one. I challenged you; you ducked that, too.

Because you exploited your position as a Senator and the reputation of the Senate (its own kind of what you call "commercialization") to defame me, I asked if you had read my books. You do not respond. Like a sneak, you pretend to, saying, "I have studied this matter carefully and have weighed the conclusions of the Warren Report with those of a number of critics."

Now in your speech, you did not say, "These things I now say relate to others than Harold Weisberg, whose books I have not read." All those vile things you said you directed at me. Now you lack the manhood or the integrity to face me on them.

I just do not believe you have read even a fair sample of the books critical of the Report. To believe you had would be to credit you with less intelligence than what is below average or poorer judgment than that of a prepuberty child.

People like you who pay political debts by debasing their positions or who seek political profit from irresponsible mouthings bearing no relationship to fact or reality damage the country as those who seek truth could not if they so desired. It is not simply a question, as you seek to put it, of asking me to "render the same courtesy" to you, to "hold the views you do". You do not just hold views. You utilize your position and immunity to slander those who hold contrary views. The view you hold is not related to the defamation you spread.

And I reiterate, you are unmanly about it. You will not answer simple questions, not accept my challenge.

Your "careful" study is reflected in your speech. It is in quotations of other sycophants who are your peers; they also will not face me on their own writing or mine, not singly, not in combination. So much for their integrity.

And yours, sir. You will not be long in eating your foul words. I will not be alone in standing by and demanding, "Eat!"

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg