

Harold Weisberg
Hyattstown, Md. 20734
August 25, 1966

Mr. Max Lerner
The New York Post
75 West St.,
New York, N.Y. 10006

Dear Mr. Lerner,

Your letter of the 23rd. is really welcome. I hope when you read WHITEWASH you will not be too rushed, for there is much that is not explicit. Should you desire any further information, please ask me.

Today everyone has too much to do, too little time to think. Most writers assume that solid criticism of the work of the Warren Commission means the chief justice personally did the dirty work. This does not follow, and a careful reading of my book will show that while it is severely critical of the errors he made, it is not at all true that he, personally, engineered the whitewash.

In the near future I hope to make this much more explicit.

However, I am alone in this position. It is a strange irony that WHITEWASH, the first (done mid-February 1965, first published that summer, and in general distribution May 9, 1966) and the strongest, is still the most thorough and exhaustive, and yet is the one that doesn't focus on Warren but seeks, as integrity permitted, to show how the thing grew and worked. History will, I believe, show that while its most thorough and painstaking critic, I am also the closest thing the Commission (meaning its members) has to an advocate.

It seems to have escaped attention that one book rewrites all the quoted testimony to eliminate the names of the assistant counsel, who really did the work while always keeping in the transcripts the names of the members, usually Warren's. Another, perhaps unwittingly, became the instrument for self-justification for one faction of the Commission's staff.

Sometime, also, perhaps you will be interested in knowing how this subject so suddenly became respectable. It was not accidental. The major events became public Memorial Day and July 23. There is now a TV special pending.

You will find much in WHITEWASH not in the other books, and, I believe, nothing of importance from the record (to which I restricted myself) that one with intimate knowledge of it could fairly include that isn't. You are welcome to use what of it you'd like. Except for the double-tuck on 202-3, it is without restriction. That is AP's. I paid for the one-time use. Perhaps the Post already has it. Practically none of the illustrations has been used in New York. Can you imagine Congressman Ford using the scissors? Or Senator Russell splicing the Zapruder film? Here (206) we had to improvise. This is a faithful reproduction of page 19 of Volume 18. The first printer broke his agreement, altered this negative, destroyed the plates, etc. We caught this just in time to insert the identification of Frame 212 on the press, so to speak. This, also, has not been used, to the best of my knowledge by anyone.

If you are interested, when my sequel (please keep this in confidence) is done I'll let you know. It and the requirements of an entire publishing establishment cause the haste. We have just gone back to press for the third 5,000 copies. The book is available to all bookstore through the major wholesalers or by mail from us. The entire address is Hyattstown, Md. 20734. I hope you will want to write of my book and that it will help for our bills and debts are astronomical. Sincerely,
Harold Weisberg

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MAX LERNER

August 23, 1966

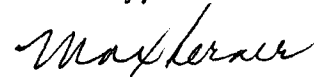
Mr. Harold Weisberg
Hyattstown, Maryland 20734

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Thank you for your letter of June 26.

I am planning to come back to the Warren Commission for treatment in my column after my vacation. If you will send me a copy of your book, I'll try to deal with it along with several others on the same theme.

Sincerely,



Max Lerner

/adv