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Harold Weisberg  
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9/15/97

Dear Dean Gifford,

About a month after I sent you what I wrote about the Kermit Hall disgrace of scholarship and of the law I having heard nothing from you wrote you the letter I enclose. Then I thought of the fact that school was in recess, that it was vacation time, and I decided to wait to eliminate those <sup>as</sup> reasons for your not having a word to say about what I sent you and about what I wrote you. Which, of course, is saying much, that total silence.

You share that total silence with Dean Hall and with the announced publisher of the Max Holland book. I sent the manuscript I sent you to them. Hall's copy, because I sent it to the ARRB, <sup>will</sup> ~~will~~ forever be a public record once they finish what they are doing.


If by any chance it finds a memory hole before then, a number of professors in several institutions are prepared to make the scandal it should cause because he/they will have violated the law which created them and states that all their papers will become public.

Those legitimate scholars have copies of what I sent you. They are legitimate subject-matter experts and have a concern for their country I regret very much that neither you nor anyone on the law review staff reflects by first the utterly irresponsible publication of that outrage that bore Hall's name and then by your silence when what you did was called to your attention.

I had hoped you (plural) would have had more self-respect, more concern for your professional reputations, and that you would not want to be recorded in our history as this reflects.

And that you would not want the law review to have done what it has done and made no effort to set the record straight.

With sincere regrets,

  
Harold Weisberg

Apologies for my typing. Sorry it cannot be any better.

Mr.  
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Dear Dean Gifford,

In writing you on July 24 I told you I am 84 years old and that my health is impaired. What I sent you represents a not inconsiderable amount of effort ~~for~~ for one of my age and with my health problems. I made no demands of you. Since then you have not been phoned by any reporter so you have reason to believe my purpose was not to create a public scandal. Yet you or your office have lacked what when I was young we were taught is the proper way to behave, the common courtesy of at the least acknowledging receipt of what I did send you.

If you are away, someone in your office should have recognized that what I wrote you about is a serious matter and that it reflects on your law school, its Law Review, and I suggest on the State.

As I said, the assassination of any president is in effect, under our system, a coup d'etat. And that is the most subversive of crimes in a society like ours. There is and there has been simply enormous dissatisfaction with the official explanation of that assassination and now the law school and its Law Review have allowed others to make their part of the unacceptable official explanation of that assassination, which most Americans do not believe.

I would have hoped that the school of law in particular would not want to be ~~cast in~~ <sup>cast</sup> that role and would have taken the obvious and proper steps to be certain it had not been. As I also hope it would teach those who will become the State's lawyers to guard against.

When I read what Dean Hall wrote - perhaps it would be more accurate to say what he put his name to - I wondered, along with other things he had done, if he had an ulterior purpose in attracting so much attention to himself. After I wrote you I was informed that he is a candidate to become president of his university, the one in that office having resigned to go to Brown.

The editors of your law review are neither sophisticated nor questioning when in publishing this propaganda along with Dean Hall's obligations they had no question about whether he could have done the work that bears his name and met those other obligations.

Indeed, whether he could have met those obligations and have begun to acquire the knowledge necessary for such writing. Or for the statements represented as fact in it when they are not factual.

Perhaps, collectively, those of you at the law school know nothing about the subject. If that is so, then you did, some of you, have the obligation to undertake to learn enough about it to prevent being used as propagandists and to prevent being used to deceive and mislead those who trust you.

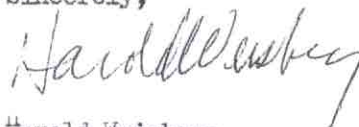
If there had been the reflection of any of this required knowledge then it would have been obvious that the theorizing began with the Commission, which theorized a non-conspiracy assassination. If you were at all familiar with the official record you would know that referring to its Report as a theory is to praise it. It was no such thing, it was a preconception, an official determination before any investigation was possible, as what I sent you leaves without any reasonable question.

Of course I am sorry that anything like this happened.

But I am sorrier that after it happened there was no concern over or even interest in any effort to correct the false statements made in the Law Review to those who trust it and to those who will see it in the future and who have already been influenced by it.

If a school of law refuses to distinguish between right and wrong and refuses to teach the difference what does it teach or intend to teach?

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg