

143 Curtis Ave.
Williamstown, NJ 08094
12:35 pm August 13, 1993

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, MD 21702

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Thank you for your response of the 10th instant.

I agree with your suggestion about reaching an invalid conclusion. My interest in this area has to do with *structure and mechanics*. The WC adopted a *structure*, such as it was, for the conduct of their work. A component of that structure was the requirement for three-day notification of witnesses. Accordingly, this internal requirement could foster further organization to the overall work effort of the staff. That is to say, that one would organize a work effort, I hesitate to use the term investigation, with that requirement in mind; a plan if you will. That does not appear to have occurred. The fact, as you point out, that there seems to be little relationship with the witness and the subject matter when correlated with where it occurred during the Commission's life seems to indicate, at least to me, a slipshod operation; one with no operative internal controls or direction. This assumes significance if one adopts the questionable assumption they were *conducting an investigation*.

This may not be a blinding revelation but, just as one has to question the actions of individuals when they act in a manner inconsistent with their training or procedures, one can look at an organization, i.e., the WC, in the same fashion. They established a set of rules and then didn't follow them.

I was not suggesting ~~hazy~~ panky of any shadowy sort. Actually, the opposite. Given the alleged predetermined outcome, any structured and rational approach to an investigation could have been very dangerous. Following an acceptable investigatory blueprint, the result might have been very different, and that, as you have written, was unacceptable. A willy nilly approach, perhaps, best suited the mission statement contained in the Katzenbach memorandum. *Write a report that says LHO did it alone*. Had they adhered to an investigatory paradigm built on facts, from the bottom to the top, and laid out as if at trial, the outcome would have been very different.

As an example of the above, I am currently wrestling with the actions surrounding the incident at the Texas Theater. I have yet to discover any document, and I have gone through, I believe, all the initial¹ police reports, as to what established *probable cause* that LHO had done anything. I haven't even seen the question asked anywhere. Julia Postal's *intuition* notwithstanding, what established, in the mind's of the police, that anyone, in that theater, had committed any *crime*. You have

¹ The word *initial* is used injudiciously. Virtually all of the on-scene police officer's reports, in CD 81b, are dated from the first week of December.

written of the incongruity of LHO's alleged *nervousness* observed by Brewer, when contrasted with his behavior looking into the muzzle of Baker's pistol. Add to this mystery, Buhk's report of the Secret Service agents at the Marsalis Avenue library, about which no one seems interested. Or the behavior of the crowd outside the theater. Why were they riled up and wanting to kill LHO - the only crime he had committed, prior to resistance and discovery of concealed possession, which themselves raise other questions, was allegedly sneaking into the theater; hardly a capital offense. Someone had raised the crowd's dander and it wasn't over a free theater seat.

I've drifted a bit. My point above was not about hanky panky on the part of the Commission. Rather, it tends to confirm a haphazard approach which diminishes the argument they conducted an investigation, the problems of the individual counsels without merit. I guess that sums it up in a few words.

It has occurred to me that since I have obtained the 27 volumes and the CDs on microfilm, I probably ought to purchase the *key persons* files. If nothing else, it will comprise a valuable body of material, which can be donated to a school. Actually what needs to be done is to put all this material on CD-ROM...all of it...the 27 volumes, the CDs, the *key persons* files, the *other individuals and organizations* files can be fit onto one (1) 5 inch diameter CD-ROM. An example is a disk I received yesterday. It contains over 1000 first-hand documents of American history from pre-Columbus thru WWI, including all the Federalist Papers, plus over 27 volumes of interpretive history, such as Madison's records of the Constitutional Convention, Wilson's multi-volume history, Franklin's autobiography, and so on. All of it searchable and retrievable by random key-word or phrase. The darn thing even has over 100 historical works of art and photographs such as the original Bill of Rights. Another CD-ROM in my collection contains the 29 volume Compton's Encyclopedia plus over seven hours of historical audio-video segments and narration of significant topics. My suspicions are that the WC work will not soon be given this sort of treatment...can you imagine the potential. It could include all the still and motion photographic and audio material. Day dreaming is one thing, however it would be nice.

Again, thank you for your thoughts and consideration. Please extend my regards to Mrs. Weisberg.

Sincerely,



John W. Masland

PS: Please note my address above. Evidently, I have sent you a letter or two with the 3 & 4 inverted; the same mistake to others. Sorry! 143 is the correct address. I also have a PO Box...Box 783...same town and zip code...either is good...if I go on any extended trips the PO Box would be better...I'll advise you before leaving...

J.W.M.