

Senator Charles Mathias
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

9/26/84

Dear Mac,

Since 1975 thrombosis, more because of 1980 postsurgical complications, I've been limited in what I can do. I had a succession of part-time hood students helping from time to time, and a couple were disasters. Not long ago I found a box of copies of records the FBI disclosed. When able I've been going over them and filing them, sometimes with memos to the lawyer who handled my FOIA cases.

Several years ago, when I learned of the complete FBI fabrication, that I and I had annually celebrated the Russian revolution and that a copy had been sent to the intelligence committee, I asked you to have its records show that there was no basis at all for that. The only such gathering we ever had was arranged by a rabbi for after the Jewish high holidays, which are this time of the year, not November.

Today I found the enclosed rotten piece of FBI business, disclosed generally by the FBI despite my earlier PA request almost seven years ago. After writing the enclosed memo to the lawyer I decided to ask again that you have a correction filed with it in your committee's files.

Even when those people didn't lie they distorted and misled. I was not fired by State for suspicion of ~~being~~ being a Communist but as part of a pogrom by some pretty extreme characters then there. There never were any charges and none could have been sustained. They'd even gone through my garbage and found nothing! There was no hearing. It was under the McCarran Act, later declared unconstitutional.

I was never a Communist and none of the few I'd known asked me to join. Nobody who has ever known me would believe that I could submit to anything that authoritarian. In that period, like many people, I knew all kinds of people. The government itself put me to work with strangers of both extremes. I knew fascists, too, even relatives of Trujillo. But that didn't mean I was one of them.

In fighting what is referred to in the second paragraph I was represented by Arnold, Fortas and Porter. I'd been of help to Thurman Arnold when he headed anti-trust at Justice and government action followed some of my published exposes. Nazi firms were vested - and that during the days of the Nazi-Soviet pact, the shibboleth of the day. I'd known Paul Porter, too. But I'd never met Abe Fortas. Among the things the FBI here withholds is the fact that State issued a public apology and Hoover himself told Bert Andrews of the then New York Herald Tribune that there was no basis for it.

They've done some pretty dirty things inside the government and in secrecy. I think that one of the dirtiest is this deliberate corruption of what I did at the request of government agencies. And then distributing their fabrications and distortions. The last page of this one says a copy went to your committee.

I have no way of knowing what other evil there is, but I did try to use the PA and even the AG did not respond. I'd like to be able to address anything else of this character while I'm still here to do it. Under the law as I understand it once I invoked PA it was wrong to make any distribution without consideration of an accompanying correction. The enclosed record makes clear why they also violated PA and made no response to my repeated invocation of it. In fact, my administrative appeals have been ignored for more than five years.

Thanks and our best to you, Ann and the boys, who are now, I guess, men!

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Rd.
Frederick, MD 21701

FBI withheld records on and about me, etc. HW 9/26/84

62-109060-5900 was disclosed by the FBI after my request to respond under PA was ignored by it and the AG. It is a particularly interesting record because it is one of several I used on appeal to show that the FBI had undisclosed records to which it referred or on which it drew that it withheld without claim to exemption, just did not make any reference to.

REL, who may be Lenihan, begins with Hoover's favorites, vitriolic and diabolical, red baits and then says "Weisberg has been in touch with Soviet officials in this country and has entertained these officials at his farm at Hyattstown, Maryland, where Weisberg raises chickens." (Page 1, graf 1)

There never were any Soviet officials at my farm, my home, ever. This is a corruption of what I'll go into but I must note that the only possible source is electronic surveillance, probably wiretapping. Now for what really happened:

At the time of the Nixon-Khrushchev so-called kitchen debate, one of my then customers, Bill Costello, formerly of CBS News, suggested that I challenge the Russians to peaceful competition in poultry husbandry. I'd won just about all the prizes there were in raising and cooking chicken, so he sent me to the USIA, where I was warmly received (except that I got a parking ticket!) by a desk head who suggested that I add a paragraph to what I had drafted in the form of a letter to Khrushchev. This guy, who had a German accent and I think was named Walter or Walters, wanted me to go farthur and invite the Khrushchevs to our farm, and I added that. USIA apparently got good use of it and before long I got a call from a guy at State whose name I recall as Hillis Lowrie. He wanted me to go farthur, to offer to help the Russians raise better chickens, including by going there to do it. He said they could take care of all expenses other than transportation and asked me to ask poultry groups to arrange that. I did that and all else he asked, and then the thing was dropped and I was not told why. But I suspect the FBI might explain. The Northeastern Poultry Producers Council, headquartered at Trenton, run by a Pennsylvania Dutchman named Richard Ammons (recollection not checked on name) agreed to provide transportation. Well, I did hear further about the Khrushchevs. She was going to come on a Saturday when he was with Ike at Camp David. He would not have time. Then I heard that she had been delayed in Virginia, if I recall correctly, while visiting people named Thayer. She didn't come. Nor did anyone else.

Pursuant to State's request I also arranged for the Russian agricultural attache to be taken through the mill that made my feed. This was discussed with him on the phone and in the end he could not come. I never saw him in person. I think the reason he could not come was a limit on the mileage they could travel from their official assignments.

So, although nothing came of any of it after use by FOIA, which loved it, if the FBI wanted to misuse its telephone intercepts, which I presume were on the embassy, not my farm (unless that also was arranged later, as was not impossible), they could distort the earlier conversations into this lie, quite defamatory in context.

Another similar record of which I have a clear recollection of sending to Shea is one in which FBIHQ also alleged that I had a personal relationship with a Soviet national inside the embassy. Never happened, never true. I was there only on business and on a very few occasions only. I'm sure I can recall them and it was not of this nature. In the end it was unfriendly, and the FBI's mail intercepts for the CIA certainly reflect this.

The FBI's representations of what I said also are off. For example, p. 2, largest graf, the Altgens picture referred to was taken during the assassination, not before it, and I think the FBI/itself identified the time as that of Zapruder Frame 253. It says first shot at Z 210. what follows is cute, Lovelady's supposed identification of the

shirt he was wearing at the time of the assassination. Dallas was care^{FBI}less and in error or just lied, as I showed in WW II with their pictures and those of the shirt on the man in the doorway. Later Lovelady's wife phoned me and told me that she wanted to sell the shirt he was actually wearing to me for \$5,000, as reported at the end of the index in WW III, all of the rest of which had by the time of her call been printed. It is obvious that the FBI's shirt, very^P broad stripes, couldn't be in the Altgens picture anywhere. But we later found (in the overexposed Martin footage) a shirt identical with what Mrs. Lovelady described.

They follow this with a double lie, that Oswald did not have high security clearances, and not they refer to no source. But that Oswald held any clearance is not in the FBI's reporting on his personnel records, which I have. He did have the clearances I reported, then only on the basis of what a Marine mate had told me off the air on a call-in talk show. (I now have proof from Navy, not FBI or CIA)

The FBI's investigation is described as showing that Oswald was "highly sympathetic to Russia and Marxism." Their investigation actually shows that Oswald denounced the USSR Communist leaders as "fat, stinking politicians" in his writings, which the FBI translated. (U.S. Communists "betrayers of the working class." Some "red," huh?)

This memo concludes by reporting that the FBI had earlier "furnished ~~data~~ data concerning Weisberg's scurrilous background to the White House and Attorney General." (Scurrilous: grossly or obscenely vulgar or abusive. Syn foul, vulgar, opprobious, coarse, abusive.)

An attached form reflects sending copies of the fabrications, defamations and other falsehoods to both intelligence committees, citing Senstudy file 62-116395-1454, which was not provided to me in response to my request.

Those terrible people sure set out to ruin the reputations of all they did not like or who disagreed with them.

They didn't even try to be up to date. I had liquidated my farming almost four years earlier and was living outside the city of Frederick then this was written.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

FROM : Mr. W. A. Branigan

SUBJECT: JOE PYNE SHOW
SUNDAY EVENING
DECEMBER 10, 1967

1 - Mr. DeLoach ✓
1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. Rosen
DATE: December 11, 1967

1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Branigan
1 - Mr. Lenihan

Tolson	✓
DeLoach	✓
Mohr	✓
Bishop	✓
Casper	✓
Callahan	✓
Conrad	✓
Felt	✓
Gale	✓
Rosen	✓
Sullivan	✓
Tavel	✓
Trotter	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Holmes	✓
Gandy	✓

The Joe Pyne Show which appeared on Washington TV Station Channel 5 from 10-12 p.m., 12/10/67, had among its guests Harold Weisberg, author who has written a number of books highly critical of the Warren Commission. Set forth below is a summary of the data discussed by Weisberg and Pyne:

BACKGROUND OF WEISBERG:

Weisberg is the author of the book entitled "Whitewash-The Report of the Warren Report." This book is a vitriolic and diabolical criticism of the Warren Commission, the FBI, the Secret Service, police agencies and other branches of the United States Government. It contains inaccuracies, falsehoods and deliberate slanting of facts to fit Weisberg's purpose. Weisberg was one of ten employees fired summarily by the State Department during 1947 because of suspicion of being a communist or having communist sympathies. Later he was allowed to resign without prejudice but was not restored to his former position. Weisberg has been in contact with Soviet officials in this country and has entertained these officials at his farm at Hyattstown, Maryland, where Weisberg raises chickens.

REC 67 62-109060-5900

WEISBERG'S CURRENT ALLEGATIONS:

Weisberg alleged that there are a number of people in high positions in the U. S. Government who know the identity of the individuals who killed President Kennedy but are suppressing such information. He alleged that officials of the Warren Commission, FBI, CIA, and several other U. S. Government agencies are involved in this suppression of evidence.

Weisberg alleged that a Cuban refugee informed the Warren Commission shortly after the assassination that Leon Oswald and two Mexicans had visited her at her residence in Dallas on September 26 or 27, 1963. Weisberg claims the Warren Commission

62-109060

ENCLOSURE
RE: kmj

DEC 28 1967

XEROX
DEC 15 1967

CONTINUED-OVER

CRIME RESEARCH

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Memorandum to Mr. W. C. Sullivan
RE: JOE PYNE SHOW
62-109060

ignored this woman's information. The woman is Sylvia Odio, an anti-Cuban refugee. Odio's allegation was completely investigated and results disseminated by us to the Warren Commission. Odio is a mental case and Oswald was on a bus en route to Mexico when Odio claims she met Leon Oswald.

Weisberg claimed James Altgen, Associated Press photographer, took a picture at the time the Presidential motorcade was passing the front of the Texas School Book Depository just a second or two prior to the assassination. Weisberg claims this photograph discloses an individual who appeared to be Lee Harvey Oswald standing in the doorway of the Depository building. This is an old allegation made by Weisberg, Mark Lane, and others. The individual standing in the doorway of the Depository building is Billy N. Lovelady, an employee of the building. Lovelady has identified the picture in question as one of him. This has been corroborated by a number of Lovelady's fellow employees who were beside him at the time the picture was taken. Weisberg attempted to discredit Lovelady by pointing out Lovelady claimed to be wearing a different shirt on the day in question to that depicted in Altgen's photograph. Lovelady has since clarified this statement and has identified the shirt he was wearing in the doorway.

HW
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records
see
Weisberg claims that just recently he received a call from an unidentified individual who told him Lee Harvey Oswald possessed a "Top Secret Crypto clearance" while in the Marine Corps. The allegation is absolutely false. Oswald never held such high security clearance. He did, of course, hold a clearance for certain classified data which was published in Marine training documents and the like.

Weisberg claims that Oswald was not a communist. He claims that Oswald's communist-like activities and defection to Russia were simply mechanics used by Oswald to conceal his true political feelings. Our investigation of course disclosed that Oswald was highly sympathetic to Russia and Marxism.

OBSERVATIONS:

It was obvious that Joe Pyne, host of the program, was completely unable or unwilling to recognize Weisberg's false statements. As a result, Weisberg had an excellent platform to expound his false allegations and continue his scurrilous attack upon the U. S. Government and its agencies.

ACTION:

For information. We have previously furnished data concerning Weisberg's scurrilous background to the White House and Attorney General

Rel
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]

MR. JONES
Dec 26 3 57 PM '67
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Dec 11 4 43 PM '67

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