

Mac Mathias and I became friends when he was a first-term Congressman from this district. We then farmed nearby but in a different, as I recall, district. I'd arranged a successful egg promotion for the Northeastern Poultry Producers' Council. It gathered all the double-yolk eggs it could, shipped them to Washington, and I'd arranged with a farm-equipment distributor to send a tractor and farm wagon to deliver them to the steps of the Capitol. We also had the "poultry princesses" from these states to hand-deliver them to each Member. It was a very big success! In both Houses they were clamoring for more of those big eggs. I arranged for TV coverage, national and local, and the picture opportunities were abundant. I also arranged for local TV stations to want Mac to appear. However, he had promised to address a high-school class and he gave up what could have been very helpful to his next campaign to keep his word to a small group of young students. That impressed me very much. (Fabled "Fishbait" Miller, House clerk, snaffled 5 dozen, fifth from me!)

He was born and raised in the heart of downtown Frederick but after he married Ann Bradford, daughter of a Mass. governor and a wonderful person, they moved to a modest frame house on New Design Road, on the southern outskirts of the city. When we were liquidating the farm I gave his two sons, then about 5 and 3, two of our incubators and fertile duck and perhaps goose eggs, taught them how to care for the eggs and operate the incubators, and they hatched ducklings that I do recall. Mac then moved them to a farm he owned in nearby West Virginia.

The older boy, as I recall Charles III, made himself and his parents proud by taking adult guests down to the basement and candling the eggs to show their fertility and the growth of the embryo. quite impressive for a five-year old!

Mac invited us to the local affair at which he announced that he would not accept any political contribution of more than \$100. I was also with him when he got word from Nixon that local Ft. Detrick, a center of CBW research and production, would be converted into a center for health research, especially cancer. Mac had pushed that proposal.

He was recovering from surgery when he read the ms of my first book. He was then on the House Judiciary Committee. He tried to interest the then chairman, Manny Celler, in the book and in investigating the assassination. Celler flatly refused.

Mac then went to see Al Friendly, then a managing editor of the Washington Post, and left the ribbon copy with him. Friendly assigned it to the liberal and well-reputed late Larry Stern to read and report on. When I heard nothing after two months I went to the Post and asked for it. I drove Stern to his home on upper 14th St., and he got the box with the ms. in it. When I got ^{home} ~~him~~ I saw that his bookmark was on only p. 47 of the tripple-spaced ms.

Mac decided not to run for re-election to the Senate, a virtual sure thing, he was that popular throughout the state (as a liberal GOP he got many Democratic votes, too) when the Nixon administration and GOP hierarchy gyped him out of what was his automatic right, Senate Judiciary Committee chairmanship. He teaches at Johns Hopkins. HW 8/17/91

Mr. Charles McC. Mathias
6808 Leland St.,
Bethesda, Md.

8/17/91

Dear Mac,

When I read in this morning's Post that you had initially "waffled" on the Katzenbach appointment my immediate reaction is that I should write you. Then as I thought about this I wondered whether it might be taken as what I do not intend, as an accusation. There is no comparison between the situation he faced in 1963 and today's. I've thought much for many years about what people in positions of trust then did and why, as best I could figure that out, they did it. I decided that because the enclosed documents, his reaction to perceived expediency, do reflect that I should send them to you in the event that at a point I hope does not come you will have some knowledge of how he ^{had} reacted.

There also were occasions when he testified, not with regard to the enclosures, with less than full forthrightness and truthfulness.

I believe he wrote the handwritten draft on Sunday, November 24, 1963, about as soon as he learned that Oswald had been killed and that there ^{would} be no trial, when no typist or secretary was available.

The typing was quite early the next morning because his recommendation of a Presidential commission was leaked to the Washington Post and knowledge of that leak reached the FBI so quickly a Cartha De Loach memo reporting the foregoing to Hoover is dated as I recall 10:20 a.m.

Katzenbach then was also acting attorney general.

If you are ever up this way with a few moments to spare and if it interests you I'd like to show you the extent and nature of the archive I leave that will be at Hood. It is of about 60 file cabinets plus many boxes in addition to a small percentage already there. Most is of about a third of a million pages of once-withheld government records I got via about a dozen FOIA suits. Several involved ^{pre}cedents. The investigatory files exemption was amended in 1974 over one of my earliest such suits.

There is much significant information not generally known included and, as I am sure Professor Jerry McKnight, of Hood's history department if you do not know him, will tell you, much thesis material.

Everything I got under FOIA is and has been freely available here and will forever be when all is at Hood.

Idl and I hope that you, Ann and the boys are well and happy.

In the recent past we were the Payne family. Now we are the Cane family. But for a couple pushing 80 and with all we've been through, we are OK.

Best wishes to you all,

Harold
Harold Weisberg

November 25, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. MOYERS

It is important that all of the facts surrounding President Kennedy's Assassination be made public in a way which will satisfy people in the United States and abroad that all the facts have been told and that a statement to this effect be made now.

1. The public must be satisfied that Oswald was the assassin; that he did not have confederates who are still at large; and that the evidence was such that he would have been convicted at trial.

2. Speculation about Oswald's motivation ought to be cut off, and we should have some basis for rebutting thought that this was a Communist conspiracy or (as the Iron Curtain press is saying) a right-wing conspiracy to blame it on the Communists. Unfortunately the facts on Oswald seem about too pat—too obvious (Marxist, Cuba, Russian wife, etc.). The Dallas police have put out statements on the Communist conspiracy theory, and it was they who were in charge when he was shot and thus silenced.

3. The matter has been handled thus far with neither dignity nor conviction. Facts have been mixed with rumour and speculation. We can scarcely let the world see us totally in the image of the Dallas police when our President is murdered.

I think this objective may be satisfied by making public as soon as possible a complete and thorough FBI report on Oswald and the assassination. This may run into the difficulty of pointing to inconsistencies between this report and statements by Dallas police officials. But the reputation of the Bureau is such that it may do the whole job.

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	MAY 1965
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The only other step would be the appointment of a Presidential Commission of unimpeachable personnel to review and examine the evidence and announce its conclusions. This has both advantages and disadvantages. It think it can await publication of the FBI report and public reaction to it here and abroad.

I think, however, that a statement that all the facts will be made public properly in an orderly and responsible way should be made now. We need something to head off public speculation or Congressional hearings of the wrong sort.

Nicholas deB. Katzenbach
Deputy Attorney General

It is important that all of ^{the} facts surrounding President Kennedy's Assassination be made public in a way which will satisfy people in the U.S. and abroad that all the facts have been told ^{and that a statement to this effect be made now.} ~~to this effect be made now.~~

~~There is a reason why this is important~~

1. The public must be satisfied that Oswald was the assassin; that he did not have confederates who are still at large; and that the evidence was such that ~~he~~ he would have ^{been} convicted if tried.

2. Speculation about Oswald's antichrist ~~right~~ right to be cut off, and we should have some basis for rebutting ~~the~~ thought that this was a Communist conspiracy or (as the Mr. Cantain press is saying) a right-wing conspiracy to ^{blame} ~~blame~~ it ~~to~~ on the Communists. Unfortunately the facts on Oswald seem almost too pat - too obvious (Marxist, Cuba, Russian wife, etc.). The Dallas police have put out statements on the Communist conspiracy theory, and it was they who were in charge when he was shot and thus silenced.

3. The matter has been handled thus far with neither dignity nor conviction. Facts have been mixed with rumour and speculation. We can scarcely let the world see us ^{totally} in the image of the Dallas police when our President is murdered.

~~Perhaps these objections will be satisfied by releasing a thorough FBI report on Oswald. The difficulty will be that as such it comes from within the~~

I think this objective may be satisfied by making public as soon as possible a complete and thorough FBI report on Oswald and the assassination. This may run into the difficulty of pointing to inconsistencies between this report and statements by Dallas police officials. But the reputation of the Bureau is such that it may do the whole job.

The ~~at~~ only other step would be the appointment of a Presidential Commission of unimpeachable personnel to review and examine the evidence and announce its conclusions. ~~This step is unappealing, might be time-consuming, and could be~~
~~seriously challenged.~~

This has both advantages and disadvantages. I think it is ^{possible} to wait ~~the~~ FBI report and public reaction to it here and abroad.

I think, however, that a statement to the effect that all the facts will be made public, ^{promptly} in an orderly and responsible way should be made now. We need something to deal off public speculation or Congressional denings of the way out.