

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
5/23/76

Mr. Leonard Rubin, Associate Counsel CERTIFIED - RETURN RECEIPT
Playboy
919 N. Michigan Ave.,
Chicago, Ill. 60611

Dear Mr. Rubin,

A hasty reading of the King piece on Playboy's assassination series makes it obvious that you, personally and Playboy both deceived me in the unkept promises made. What was stolen from my work was not removed. This relates to my copyrighted work, where the theft is uniquely from it, as well as from my new book.

I have written Jim McKinley separately asking that he preserve all his notes and relevant records because I will be seeking them.

I herewith ask the same of you and Playboy and for the same purposes. This includes the tapes we both agreed to make and all the notes made by your people, particularly but not restricted to what I warned Playboy about the permeating thievery in this series and what I warned was hurtful to Ray and was not accurate.

Gonzales, when we first discussed the earlier theft from my work, for which Playboy, after the fact, paid a nominal sum, said he had been told by counsel that once anything is published it can be stolen with impunity. If this opinion is in writing I ask that it and what relates to it also be preserved.

As I told you I did not want to sell this work to Playboy. I did not want any of it used because I am working on a new book in which it is essential. After your assurance that what was stolen had been deleted I arranged to be represented in Hollywood on this new work. Now that the story has been published, I can imagine the consequences. Especially when, as McKinley knew, others out there were trying to steal my work and had been caught at it. There is, in fact, a multimillion dollar suit over one such effort. I am not party to it. However, it is with another one that this will be most hurtful to me. This is very real, as you will learn.

I am tied up in Freedom of Information suits against the government at least until mid-June. Thereafter you will be hearing from me or counsel. I hope that in the time this gives you as Playboy's counsel you will go over the tapes, compare the printed version with the copy over which you, personally gave me assurances, and note the transparent and childish devices used to attempt to mask the thefts.

I have not been paid for my work on this piece. I have not had my rare books loaned for the first JFK piece returned. I want them back, not pay for them because I believe they cannot be replaced and the effort to find replacements will be costly. If they are not replaced I asked \$5,000 for them. My fee for consultation on the King piece is \$2,500.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg