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Dear Mr. Morgan,

It is kind and thoughtful of you to devote the time required by your letter, and I do appreciate and thank you for it. We are, of course, in accord on the things of which you comment. You have seen things most others have not, and you see them clearly. I wish I had the time to answer as you deserve. However, I have spent the past five hours and 20 minutes answering letters and mailing out copies of Whitewash. While both are things I like to do, they seriously crimp my working time, and I have by no means lost my interest in the subject. I have, as a matter of fact, what I believe to be new and major discoveries.

It is my personal opinion that while the members of the Commission at the very least must have had doubts, the real blame must fall on the staff. Epstein became their creature, their vehicle for seeking self-justification. Any one not satisfied, any one feeling his honor or that of the country in jeopardy, need but have resigned. "One did. And so did Knebel, of the other side, in his slippery "answer".

That Canadian publisher shocked me, too, and a number of those who have read the book. Several Americans said as much. What an indictment of U.S. publishers that then none and now almost none will touch the subject. From your own experience and that of your father you understand this. Yet we try, and to a degree we succeed. Your father did, and now I am beginning to feel as though I am. And to a degree people stop and think. Everything in a society such as ours is or we want it to be must begin with this.

I believe I have broken the ice of this taboo. Only time will tell. I have already had (and rejected as unacceptable) an offer for paperback. Perhaps there will yet be one I can accept.

Should any bookstores in your area, or at the college, be interested, we offer them the book under normal commercial arrangements. The largest distributors do stock it, and one made me very happy this morning for phoning to order an additional 500. I may yet pay the printer!

From the opening of your letter, I expected a reference to "The False Oswald". Does not this and perhaps several other chapters relate to what you did say.

Again, thank you very much for writing. If you have any further suggestions or comments, I'll certainly welcome them.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Route 1, Box 275
Yellow Springs, Ohio
June 30, 1966

Harold Weisberg
Hyattstown, Md.

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Today I received your book Whitewash and have already read enough of it to be very enthusiastic. Since I already know the subject matter fairly well there are few surprises in subject matter, but your account of your publishing problem sounded very familiar and most relieving to me. I have wondered if there was something wrong with me and my friends that my manuscript should be returned so regularly when I and others thought my article was very clear and well written. I am also interested that in many ways I had come to the same conclusions as you, particularly with regard to the relationships between the commission members and the staff.

The thing I am particularly concerned with now is the political implications for the future. I would conceive that Dallas police--a few in key places--had a hand in the assassination as well as someone in association with Hunt. But they could not have undertaken such a job without some assurance that ~~local~~ CIA-FBI personnel would help cover them. Warren probably became aware of this and was under pressure to "whitewash". I would expect that he asked a price for his concurrence with the report--possibly the publishing of the testimony unexpurgated was part of that price. Another part might have been a clean-up of the CIA and FBI. Clearly the endeavor had been to frame another episode like the Reichstag fire that would accentuate the red hysteria in America. Warren may have felt that in scotching that endeavor he was doing something. But the whole involvement of the United States in Vietnam and in the Dominican Republic is the aftermath with the terrible hazard to world peace that goes with it. For the CIA that had planned the invasion of Cuba had found that they had a president that was throwing in jeopardy their whole program of a world war against the communist powers. The famous Kennedy address on world peace at American University (which I was listening to the other evening on my tape recording of it) so explicitly repudiates the perspective of the war on communism that it is clear that the CIA had in Kennedy an enemy of its program over the world. As Joesten has pointed out, Hunt was in a similar relationship to Kennedy--as was General Walker. And, of course, Johnson was known as dependable so far as taxation of Texas oil income was concerned, and a war hawk who had most strongly urged the invasion of Cuba.

Against all this background the future needs to be considered. Those politically concerned to maintain the fruits of the assassination must be aware and plotting today. They are in the position of having a terrible price to pay for disclosure--and there are many parties today that are involved. One thing that may happen is an endeavor to concentrate the public attention on the idea that Oswald was involved in a communist conspiracy--as was originally intended. That may be the only hope of those who were involved in the assassination--and their allies. Hence the urgency of the endeavor we are engaged in--as well as the trend of the Vietnamese war which was made possible by the Kennedy Assassination.

Perhaps the most terrible thing I read in your book is the quotation from the Canadian publisher: "The young man had a certain number of admirers .. but few of us have, I think, any continuing interest in either the man or the circumstances of his death". I am glad to say that the Cherokee-negro typist who typed my article for me was all wrought up about it--she was definitely one of those admirers. I understand also that American negros generally have a deeper knowledge of the white power structure and a feel of what it is all about.

It was in reading Vincent Salandria's articles in Liberation ^{a year ago last month} that I got started on the study. I had a good visit with Vince and he gave me many pointers that helped me get oriented. Before I saw Vince I had developed a theory which is the subject of my article which Vince helped to prove. I contacted members of the Commission in the hope that with definite proof of what did happen they might care to get on the bandwagon and release the information rather than that I should. You may be interested that Senator Cooper's legislative assistant said to me that if I have new evidence it was my responsibility to present it to the American public, for the Warren Commission was ended. Otherwise the Commission members ignored my endeavors or expressed satisfaction with the Report.

So I too congratulate you on your book, and I am going to try to help get it a market.

Sincerely,

Griscom Morgan
Griscom Morgan

P.S. I have now finished reading your book. A few additional comments are in order. I was particularly impressed with the information on page 74 about a CIA agent on the job and his conduct under the circumstances. It adds significant evidence that the CIA was not out of the picture, and that its spirit and conduct was in line with the involvement that seems so likely. Furthermore, it closely links the CIA with the FBI, a conclusion necessary to the concept of CIA involvement.

The real shocker to me was the identification of the Tippit car with the police car that honked at Oswald's on page 55. That is a terrific find. Tippit's murder seems to have been one of the most cold-blooded of all, and looks like pure CIA. A few weeks ago I spoke to Norman Thomas about the assassination. What I told him he said was to him the first credible information on the subject leading him to at all question the Warren Report. He immediately asked, "Why did Oswald kill Tippit"? I immediately answered "he didn't". But I could give Thomas no reasons for Tippit's murder, no suggestion of why it might have happened. After your page 55 the perspective on that begins to clarify. *pp 44-47 also added new perspective*

I have been through other whitewashes by governmental investigations. My father, Arthur Morgan, when chairman of the TVA saw some skullduggery going on and sought an investigation of it. The ensuing commission was handled by a staff bent on fulfilling the Administration's orders to whitewash. I asked a newspaper publisher who was also on the staff of one of the nation's leading periodical and book publishers why the newspapers did not carry the revelations my father presented to the Commission. He answered that the big corporation involved in this skullduggery was one of the leading advertisers and the newspapers knew which side their bread was buttered. I also saw key witnesses so broken down by intimidation that they were reduced from courageous self-respecting persons to scared mice, deciding they could not afford to testify. More recently in our work for the Seneca Indians in relation to the Army Engineers what should have been an impartial review by an independent agency did their equivalent of what the Warren Commission did. And the senators and congressmen who knew what was being done and started to seek a true study drew in their horns when the heat was put on them.

These are times of darkness--and of increased responsibility for those of us who see the light.

-- *Ar Morgan*

I will probably be seeing Ruth Paine this weekend. Her mother reports of her that despite her earlier impression of him as a fine person she believed the Warren Commission and now wishes to forget the whole business.

What are your quantity prices?