

Editor, "The Nation"
72 Fifth Ave.,
New York, NY 10011

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Rd.
Frederick, MD 21702

7/13/94

"For sheer ~~insanity~~ dementia, nothing is likely to exceed the public display of emotion and curiosity around the Kennedy assassination," you say (7/25/8/1/94).

For sheer ignorance, nothing is likely to exceed this public display of ideology pretended to be journalism.

Any Presidential assassination inevitably has the effect of a coup d'etat.

Why should this not cause emotion and curiosity? More when the victim was as genuinely popular as JFK?

But what has ~~The Nation~~ ever done to learn and report the established official fact of that assassination? As distinguished from the theories of officialdom and its sycophants, non-conspiracy theories, or those of the motley crew that has exploited and commercialized the assassination with ^{unproven} theories of conspiracy?

The unquestionable but misrepresented official fact leaves it without any question at all that there was a conspiracy.

This is without any refutation of any kind ~~set~~ forth in my seven published books on that assassination, all ignored by The Nation.

I further proved this, with the official fact and subject to the refutation never attempted by the government in several of my dozen or so FOIA lawsuits by which I obtained about a third of a million ^{pages of} previously-withheld records. One led to the 1974 amending of FOIA's investigatory files exemption to make FBI, CIA and similar files accessible under it. (Congressional Record 5/24/74, page S 9336)

With the assassinated President's sole surviving brother seeing to it that the legislative history is clear, that also was not worthy of reporting.

While most of the available books do theorize conspiracy, none with more intended dishonesty than last year's media event, Gerald Posner's knowingly mistitled Case Closed (see my current Case Open) when the truth and the established fact - the official fact - is readily available, it is an abdication of journalistic responsibility to make sport about that great tragedy that turned the world around and it is indecent for The Nation to do that, based on no more than its determined ignorance and its liking for the official mythology.

When Max Holland and Kai Bird began their book on John McCloy and The Nation sent them here, they saw the volume of official information to which they and all writing in the field have always had unsupervised access but they cared about records on McCloy only.

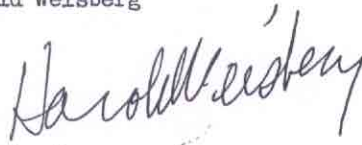
President Johnson and Commission Chairman Earl Warren both believed there was a conspiracy. As I brought to ^{light} ~~life~~ in my 1974 Whitewash IV Warren told his staff at his first meeting with it that if he had not taken the job he knew he should not have it

10.2
"could conceivably lead the country into a war which could cost 40 million lives." That
without a conspiracy?

Two Commission members, Conservative Democrat Richard B. Russell of Georgia and Republican John Sherman Cooper of Kentucky both absolutely disagreed with the basis of that Commission's Report, its single-bullet theory, as I have also brought to light with copies of the records they left and of which Russell, who encouraged my work until his dying day, also told me.

The "deportia" is The Nation's.

Harold Weisberg

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harold Weisberg". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

CONTENTS.

Volume 259, Number 4

EXCHANGE

110

Nation Readers

EDITORIALS

109 Detour From Freedom

111 Juicing the News

112 Blockaded Minds

112 Arafat's Return

Graham Usher

113 Clinton & Co.: What Evil Lurks?

David Corn

COLUMNS

114 A Short Conversation

Encompassing all the

News of the Day

Calvin Trillin

115 Minority Report

Christopher Hitchens

116 Beat the Devil

Alexander Cockburn

118 Subject to Debate

Katha Pollitt

Illustrations by Robert Grossman

ARTICLES

119 Dan Quayle's Revenge:

The New Family Values Crusaders Judith Stacey

122 Letter From Europe:

Does the Left Have a Future? Daniel Singer

125 Requiem for Columbus Homes:

"Dee Dee Was Here

Now She's Gone" Camilo José Vergara

BOOKS & THE ARTS

128 Foley: Radical Representations:

Politics and Form in U.S.

Proletarian Fiction, 1929-1941

McKenney: Industrial Valley Lillian S. Robinson

132 Johanningsmeier: Forging

American Communism Dorothy Ray Healey

134 Music

Gene Santoro

136 Films

Stuart Klawans

138 In the Eternal City (poem)

Debora Greger

Editor, Katrina vanden Heuvel (acting); Victor Navasky (on leave)

Publisher, Arthur L. Carter

Executive Editor, Richard Lingeman; *Associate Editors*, Andrew Kopkind, Katha Pollitt, Bruce Shapiro, Micah L. Sifry; *Literary Editors*, Elsa Dixler, Art Winslow; *Poetry Editor*, Grace Schulman; *Managing Editor*, JoAnn Wypijewski; *Copy Chief*, Roane Carey; *Copy Editor*, Judith Long; *Assistant Copy Editor*, Emily Gordon; *Assistant to the Editor*, Dennis Selby; *Interns*, Daniel Cordes, Vojislava Filipčević, Nicole Hala, Kyra Holland, Katharine Loos (Washington), Matthew Strozier, Jennifer Washburn, Nejd Yaziji.

President, Neil Black; *Advertising: Director*, Ellen Jarvis, *Classified Manager*, Debra L. Jellenik; *Business Manager*, Ann B. Epstein; *Bookkeepers*, Ivor A. Richardson, Shirleatha Watson; *Art/Production Manager*, Jane Sharples; *Production*, Sandy McCroskey, Sauna Trenkle; *Circulation: Director*, Teresa Stack, *Manager*, Michelle O'Keefe; *Receptionist*, Vivette Dhanukdhari; *Data Entry/Mail Coordinator*, John Holtz; *Administrative Secretary*, Shirley Sulat; *Nation Associates Director*, Peggy Randall; *Publicity/Syndication Director*, Jonathan Taylor; *Special Projects Director*, Peter Rothberg; *Operations Manager*, David N. Perrotta; *Advertising Consultant*, Chris Calhoun.

Departments: Architecture, Jane Holtz Kay; *Art*, Arthur C. Danto; *Fiction*, John Leonard; *Films*, Stuart Klawans; *Music*, David Hamilton, Edward W. Said, Gene Santoro; *Television*, Lewis Cole; *Theater*, Thomas M. Disch; *Bureaus: Washington*, David Corn; *Europe*, Daniel Singer; *Budapest*, Miklós Vámos; *Tokyo*, Karl Taro Greenfeld; *Southern Africa*, Mark Gevisser. *Corporations*, Robert Sherrill; *Defense*, Michael T. Klare; *Columnists and Regular Contributors*: Alexander Cockburn (*Beat the Devil*), Christopher Hitchens (*Minority Report*), Aryeh Neier (*Watching Rights*), Elizabeth Pochooda (*Reading Around*), Katha Pollitt (*Subject to Debate*), Edward Sorel, Calvin Trillin; *Contributing Editors*: Lucia Annunziata, Kai Bird, George Black, Robert L. Borosage, Stephen F. Cohen, Slavenka Drakulić, Thomas Ferguson, Doug Henwood, Max Holland, Molly Ivins, Joel Rogers, Kirkpatrick Sale, Robert Scheer, Herman Schwartz, Ted Solotaroff, Gore Vidal, Jon Wiener, Amy Wilentz; *Editorial Board*: Norman Birnbaum, Richard Falk, Frances FitzGerald, Philip Green, Elinor Langer, Deborah W. Meier, Toni Morrison, Michael Pertschuk, Elizabeth Pochooda, Neil Postman, Marcus G. Raskin, David Weir, Roger Wilkins. *Editor at Large*, Richard Pollak.

The Nation (ISSN 0027-8378) is published weekly (except for the first week in January, and biweekly in July and August) by The Nation Company, L.P. © 1994 in the U.S.A. by The Nation Company, L.P., 72 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011. (212) 242-8400. *Washington Bureau*: Suite 308, 110 Maryland Avenue N.E., Washington, DC 20002. (202) 546-2239. Second-class postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. International Telex: 667 155 NATION. Subscription orders, changes of address and all subscription inquiries: *The Nation*, P.O. Box 10763, Des Moines IA 50340-0763, or call 1-800-333-8536. *Subscription Price*: 1 year, \$48; 2 years, \$80. Add \$18 for surface mail postage outside U.S. Missed issues must be claimed within 60 days (120 days foreign) of publication date. Please allow 4-6 weeks for receipt of your first issue and for all subscription transactions. Back issues \$4 prepaid (\$5 foreign) from: *The Nation*, 72 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011. *The Nation* is available on microfilm from: University Microfilms, 300 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106. Member, Audit Bureau of Circulations. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Nation*, P.O. Box 10763, Des Moines IA 50340-0763. This issue went to press on July 7. Printed in U.S.A. on recycled paper.

Manuscripts: Address to "The Editor." Not responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts unless accompanied by addressed, stamped envelopes. Unsolicited faxed manuscripts will not be acknowledged unless accepted.

EDITORIALS.

Juicing the News

The O. J. Simpson saga is not the most egregious example of cultural lunacy fed by media hype: For concentrated delirium, nothing matches the short, sharp spasm over Baby Jessica in the well; and of course the Lindbergh kidnapping some sixty years ago still stands as the textbook case of a society gone mad over the fate of an arbitrary celebrity. In these matters the foolishness derives not from the overweening adoration of celebrity, but its arbitrariness.

For sheer dementia, nothing is likely to exceed the public display of emotion and curiosity around the Kennedy assassination; but then the sudden, violent death of that President was bound to have an enormous impact on American life. The Simpson story is gruesome and gripping, but it is essentially empty of meaning for all but the poor souls involved. Of course the hype artists insist that the "silver lining" of the cheap melodrama is the attention it focuses on spousal abuse. But that's like saying the meaning of the Kennedy assassination was in the issue of presidential security. Simpson was a third-string celebrity whose great fall (if it comes to that) affects no one but his alleged victims and the good folks at Hertz.