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Dear Harold:

I should be drawing up a lawsuit or something, but I have been typing and my fingers are hot, so I thought I would answer you.

Thanks for the latest, I will have to get the June 19 New Yorker. Also thanks for the articles and FBI documents. Love those. I'll never forget getting thrown out of Popkin's son's office at UK. What a crabby SOB!

As I told you, I met Bob Schulman, author of the only bio of Sen. Cooper so far. At the bar association, he spoke on the media and the law. He was friendly, and seemed pretty open minded in our brief conversation. So, as always, I have a plan.

Schulman and others have a round table show on WHAS radio at 12 noon on Sunday. I was originally going to try to get you on Joe Elliott's 9am-12 noon show, but since I have struck up a conversation with Schulman, I will try him, I do not know-Elliott. Schulman's show is kind of an intellectual round table with some of the local media cynics, so you would fit right in! I have written Schulman a letter, copy enclosed. I hope I have characterized close to accurate some of your positions.

You know, I have always considered myself to be pretty smart. However, when I am around you, Lil, Wrone, Ginocchio, Macdonald, and McKnight, it is a humbling experience! I really, really do appreciate all that you fellows have done for me.

Of course, I am also convinced that my German Shepherd Ruder can control my thoughts with ESP. I swear to God, the other day, Betsy was taking a nap with Ruder, and she had a strange dream, about chasing cats from the dog's perspective! It gives me the willies when the dog stares at me. I hope she uses her power for good, and not evil! I guess using ESP to make me give her dog cookies is pretty low on the evil scale.

Speaking of evil, I enclose an article about Leni Riefenstahl, documentary maker for Hitler. Another goddamn Nazi that seems to know nothing about dead Jews, war crimes, etc. When evil walked the Earth. Although I wonder if it ever sat down.

Got a short note from Dave Wrone. Your comments about Wrone, McKnight, and Ginocchio in Never Again! were very sweet. They are charter members of the Weisberg fan club. Both Weisbergs!

Betsy says she hopes we can come up sometime this fall. I have been in a catch up mode all spring. Dick is doing great. At this point, all I have going is a trip to Charlotte in October for a race. Your friend Dan Beckman, who called when I was there, is I believe a photog for a TV station in Charlotte, We may have some mutual friends, three of my magazine photog buddies take pics there, and one lives in Charlotte.

I may try to go to Key West again in November, just have to wait to be sure that I schedule it for the middle of a hurricane again. Betsy's father, who was with us, says its not just a vacation, its an adventure! My dad took it in good spirits, but I was pretty pissed off. You feel pretty stupid towing a boat 1,300 miles one way to fish for three days! Now I can't get out of the office to go to a lake 30 miles away.

So I don't know what my schedule is going to be. I am tempted to wait to go to Florida in December. I really hate to miss all the fall colors. As I get older, I have come to appreciate things like that, and my amazing good health, all the more.

So I don't know what the hell I am going to do. I have some personal injuries cases I can't get settled, and I am tempted to just set them all for trial and see what happens.

I once interviewed a former secretary for one of the biggest personal injury lawyers around. I asked her if she helped him prepare for trial, and she looked at me crazy, and said he never went to trial! Settled everything. So maybe I can win a case and pay for my vacation.

I was in small claims court the other day, and even I could not believe the riffraff in there. Even district criminal court dresses better. When did anyone think that cutoffs, shorts, dirty T shirts, and sandals are the proper attire for court? And most of them sassed the judge, even when he ruled in their favor! One woman asked me if my client did not pay as agreed, would he go to jail! I told her I thought the Constitution outlawed debtors prison. Jesus Christ, what a freak show.

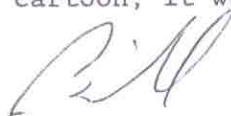
I did some probate work a few years ago for my old Latin teacher. I had to leave her for a few minutes in the courthouse to look at a file. She said it was the most interesting 30 minutes in her life! Said she had read about people like that, but had never personally seen them. Guess she did not meet a lot of hookers studying for her masters at Vanderbilt. The best thing is, they installed metal detectors at the courthouse. After a lawyer shot another for messing around with his wife so he shot the other in the Fayette-Lex courthouse. The winos don't like to go through metal detectors, most have knives. So it kind of cuts down on the pools of urine left on the plastic benches. I think if they build another courthouse, they should just go ahead and build a winos lounge. Big TV and lots of restrooms and coffee. So we defense attorneys will have a place to go when we retire!

I will say one thing for Federal court. They scare the bejesus out of the defendants, so at least they dress nice! While they get sentenced for 10 years for selling \$40 worth of crack. *Not enough for 2 good parties!*

Well, enough of my bad attitude. Hope the Virginia floods stayed south of you. We are doing well, getting computerized. Take care of both of you, and you can console yourselves with the thought that at least you don't have people coming into your office telling you how to practice law! Apparently most of today's legal experts don't even have to go to law school, they just watch the OJ trial and know it all. Thanks for the OJ cartoon, it was great!

Love,

bill



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Bob Schulman
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Dear Mr. Schulman:

It was great to meet you recently at the Kentucky Bar Association. I read your book on Sen. Cooper, and enjoyed it very much. It is ironic that just last week, KET reran the documentary on Sen. Cooper, which I had never seen.

As I told you, I am somewhat the expert on Sen. Cooper and the Warren Commission. Thanks to Bill Cooper, the UK archivist, we found the only known written or oral communication of Sen. Cooper regarding the so-called single bullet theory. Hale Boggs (Cokie Roberts' dad), Sen. Richard Russell, and Sen. Cooper did not agree with the official Warren Report conclusion that President Kennedy and Governor Connally suffered all their non fatal wounds due to a single bullet, the bullet that was found under the mattress on a gurney-not Connally's or JFK's-at Parkland Hospital. The single bullet theory was essentially invented by now Senator Arlen Specter, to make the "facts" fit the evidence.

In addition to three of its members not agreeing with the ballistics conclusions, Sen. Russell flat out disagreed with the idea that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone. He stated on a number of occasions that JFK was killed as the result of a conspiracy. Lyndon Johnson and current VP Al Gore also stated that JFK was killed as a result of a conspiracy. On one occasion, LBJ stated this opinion to Walter Cronkite, but later asked that this be removed from the televised interview.

I enclose a copy of Sen. Cooper's letter, along with some other items that you may find interesting.

One of the things that most people don't understand is that the Warren Report is contradicted on most conclusions by its own evidence, the 26 volumes that comprise the evidence and hearings of the Commission. I own the 26 volume set, and it makes for interesting reading.

I enclose a copy of the documentary "Reasonable Doubt", by Chip Selby. It discusses the single bullet theory in great detail, and is the winner of an award for best historical documentary. Selby is the expert on Sen. Russell and his archive in Georgia.

I also enclose a copy of the book, now out of print, called Whitewash I. By Harold Weisberg, it contains the uncropped Altgens picture. Among its interesting features, it appears to show Lee Harvey Oswald standing on the front steps of the Texas School Book Depository, as the President is being shot. In addition, it shows a possible shooter, the fact that JFK was shot very soon after his turn onto Dealey Plaza, and a man on a fire escape. The fire escape and the man were cropped from all versions of this picture shown to the Warren Commission, and published in its Report and 26 supporting volumes. At the very least, it is amazing that the man on the fire escape was never identified or interviewed by the Commission.

I have spent many hours examining various versions of this picture, and I believe that Oswald was standing in the front of the TSBD. Witnesses placed him near the first floor within 10 or 15 minutes of the shooting, and another witness stated that nobody was on the 6th floor as late as 12:25, five minutes before the shooting. Oswald appears to be nothing but a patsy, it is highly unlikely that he had any knowledge of the murder.

My work in the Cooper Archive has led me into a friendship with the two top researchers on the JFK assassination, Harold Weisberg and Prof. David Wrone, of the Univ. of Wisconsin- Stevens Point, just retired. Weisberg has written many books on the subject, as well as one on the Martin Luther King assassination. He worked with attorney Jim Lesar to get James Earl Ray a trial. Ray never admitted he killed Dr. King, he did plead guilty, but recanted three days later.

I asked Benjamin Hooks, after his speech to the Bar Association, if he felt the King murder was properly investigated. He said no, that he thinks Ray is guilty of the murder, but that he is certain that others were involved, that King was killed as a result of a conspiracy.

Dave Wrone is the author of the only annotated bibliography of the books on the JFK assassination. He told me that depending how many witnesses you believe, up to 12 shots may have been fired that day.

Here is a list of the only books that are currently available that are accurate on this subject.

Sylvia Meagher, ACCESSORIES AFTER THE FACT, reprint of the late Meagher's book. She is the author of the only index to the Warren Commission volume the Commission did not have an index.

These three books by Harold Weisberg

CASE OPEN, 1994, Carrol and Graf, an expose of the fraud of a book by Gerald Posner, Case Closed.

SELECTIONS FROM WHITEWASH, 1994, Carrol and Graf, a compilation of the books, Whitewash and Post Mortem, which are out of commercial print NEVER AGAIN!, new book, 1995- C&G, excellent book.

My Sen. Cooper letter was to be in Never Again, but alas was edited out. However, my wife Elizabeth is quoted as a medical records expert. On page 133.

Harold Weisberg is 82 years old, and was on the Jane Norris show on Nov. 22, 1994. He is the acknowledged dean of the assassination researchers, his files are going to Hood College upon his death. Weisberg sued the Federal government under the Freedom of Information Act over a dozen times, to release records. For example, the picture of Billy Lovelady, in Whitewash II, was released due to one of Weisberg's suits. The FBI claims he is the man in the picture, but clearly the subject was not wearing a short sleeve shirt. In fact, Lovelady had on a long sleeve checked shirt.

The FBI was the investigative arm of the Warren Commission. To make a long story short, it appears J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI decided upon Oswald's death, that he was a lone nut gunman. The FBI went so far as to spy on the sex lives of the critics of the Commission.

Oswald had some type of relationship with the FBI. The FBI claims that he was a suspicious person. Others think he was an informant. Regardless the FBI knew he worked on the parade route of JFK, in the TSBD bldg. But they did not worry about it. So how suspicious could he be?

Regardless, Sen. Cooper, in his oral history with Bill Cooper, termed the FBI's handling of Oswald as "absolute negligence".

The other thing I found important in Cooper's papers is an unpublished psychiatric exam of Jack Ruby. Why it is not in the Warren Report exhibits is unknown. It supports the Commission's conclusion that Jack Ruby was not part of any conspiracy, just a psychotic with old organic brain damage, who decided to "get" Oswald, just like some people think we should hang Tim McVeigh without a trial.

I agree with the Commission that Ruby was just an historical accident. Ironic that the one part of the assassination many think is part of a conspiracy is not, though Ruby did have mob connections. One of the last people he spoke to before killing Oswald was the Weird Beard, the old WAKY disc jockey. He knew Ruby well.

Harold Weisberg would like to be on your Sunday morning-afternoon radio show, if you have any interest. He has appeared on Unsolved Mysteries (King assassination), the Phil Donohue show, and other shows throughout the years. He and Dave Wrone are featured on the documentary I enclose.

He was also on the documentary "The Men Who Killed Kennedy". This is not a real accurate documentary, it is 5 hours long, but the part with Weisberg and Dr. Cyril Wecht are excellent.

I hope you find this material interesting. If you are interested in having Weisberg on your show, please give me a call. Thank you.

P.S. The one thing I have been able to explain to other researchers is that Sen. Cooper was really the only close friend of JFK's on the Commission. I don't think most realized that.

Sincerely,

Bill Neichter

PPS Here is an addendum that you may find interesting.

Mark Lane, one of the early critics, had a commercial success with *Rush to Judgment*, not a bad book. His later books tend to be fiction, but not according to him. Sen. Cooper, in one comment, seems to have pegged Lane as a con man of sorts. In fact, Cooper was right. Lane has in recent years allied himself with The Liberty Lobby, a virulently anti-Semitic and pro KKK group. He claims he has proven the CIA did it. Most serious critics consider him a publicity hungry clown, who is not to be taken seriously.

Mysterious deaths? There are not any except JFK. This is a myth carried out by Penn Jones and Mark Lane. Quite a few witnesses died, but not mysteriously. Car accidents, heart attacks, etc.

Harold Weisberg gave Jim Garrison much if not most of his accurate information. Weisberg broke with Garrison before the trial. He now considers Garrison a political opportunist, not interested in the truth, perhaps even mentally unbalanced.

Weisberg came to know Sen. Russell, who encouraged him to keep working on his criticisms of the Warren Report.

Weisberg says Clay Shaw, the defendant in the Garrison trial, did in fact know Oswald. How is unknown. But this doesn't mean Shaw or Oswald had anything to do with JFK's murder.

Lee Harvey Oswald, a high school dropout, somehow became fluent in Russian. The Warren Report bought the story that he taught it to himself! Quite a trick, since Russian uses a different alphabet. More likely, Oswald was taught Russian in the Marines. Never proven.

Oswald was not a communist, big or small C. He considered himself a Marxist. Which is not much different than a Socialist. In fact, Oswald was quite critical of Russian Communism.

JFK's autopsy was controlled by the military, several generals and admirals were in attendance. The bullet wounds path through his body were not traced, although this was essential evidence for a trial. There is a receipt for "one missile" removed from his body, autopsy language for a bullet. But it is nowhere to be found.

The only "witness" to Oswald shooting out of the TSBD could not pick him out of a lineup. He later claimed he lied, could have picked out Oswald. Even the Warren Report backs away from putting too much reliance on this witness.

Weisberg has about 250,000 pages of records in his basement. Most serious researchers, including me, have looked through them. Gerald Posner, author of the fraud *Case Closed*, xeroxed over 700 pages at Weisberg's. Wofford College professor Gerald Ginocchio even teaches a course, *Anatomy of a Fraud*, pointing out the lies in Posner's books.

Most of the serious researchers take an archival approach, have a document backing up most of their arguments. I have enclosed a few.

I think you could sum up the assassination and its investigation this way.

JFK was killed, and the FBI and other police agencies went numb. Dealey Plaza was reopened to traffic within a few minutes of the shooting, obliterating much of the possible evidence. The police search of the scene was so bad, a piece of JFK's skull was found a few hours later, or the next day, by a citizen who turned it into the authorities. Found to the left of the car, in the grass. This all shows confusion and incompetence, not a big conspiracy.

Police officer Tippit, who was killed less than an hour after JFK, was apparently not shot by Oswald. The best guess is he was shot by a man with a personal grudge.

After Oswald's death, the FBI just decided that Oswald was the man, the only one. Not to be overly critical of the modern day FBI, but how many stories have we been told about the Oklahoma City bombings? Lack of knowledge never stops the FBI from leaking info to unnamed sources. Just as the FBI seems unsure of how McVeigh fits into Oklahoma City, they were unsure of Oswald. Especially since it had a relationship with him. But when he was dead, Hoover stopped any uncertainty.

Hoover tolerated no criticism of the FBI. He always fought it with attacks on his critics. Usually leaking info that made Oswald seem guilty. The Warren Commission was very concerned about the leaks. Sen. Cooper let almost no staff near him when he did his Warren Commission work in his office. We now know most leaks came from the FBI, and that Gerald Ford reported to the FBI the workings of the Commission!

The Warren Commission only saw what the FBI wanted it to see. Sen. Russell and Sen. Cooper were more curious than most, and I feel that Cooper harbored some doubts about the Report. He did seem unaware that much of the report is contradicted by the exhibits.

So what is the bottom line? It appears you can discount the Mafia did it theory, the Cubans and Castro did it theories, the LBJ did it scenario, the Russians did it idea, or that Oswald alone did it. What does that leave? By the way, LBJ advised JFK not to go to Dallas.

Hard as it is to believe, it appears that the military might have had some thing to do with it. Kennedy had almost violent arguments with the Joint Chiefs of Staff. They wanted to use nuclear arms if necessary in Vietnam, just as MacArthur (sp) wanted to do in Korea. And there is no doubt that the CIA and probably the military lied to Kennedy in the Bay of Pigs fiasco.

The military controlled the autopsy, they were mad at Kennedy, the military liked LBJ much more, and perhaps most important, Kennedy was withdrawing from Vietnam. While a military coup per se is not provable, JFK's death had the result of a military coup, in that LBJ followed very different foreign policies than JFK. Yet his domestic policies were very similar. It is very doubtful that JFK would have sent 500,000 troops into Vietnam, and the fraud of the Gulf of Tonkin incident-Cooper said voting for it was one of his biggest mistakes-certainly casts doubt on the veracity of the military in that period.