

Mr. Hedrick Smith
The New York Times
1000 Connecticut Ave., NW 20036
Washington, D.C. 20036

9/10/81

Dear Mr. Smith,

The affidavit and the backup material are available now, embargoed until the press conference at 10:30 a.m. the 17th, one of the upstairs rooms at the National Press Club. Both are in the hands of my lawyer, Jim Lesar, who is with Bud Fensterwald. They have just moved ^{to} 1000 Wilson Blvd., #900. The office phone is 276-9297. Jim's is 276-0404. I do not have copies to give away because I can't afford that, but copies of any of the backup material can be made there. Or here. The exhibits I used total 82 and there are many records I used without attaching them as exhibits. I'll probably have a few of these and some others that may become pertinent with me. Like how the FBI convinced LWF that the CIA conspired to have JFK killed, only some of which came out years ago.

I'll have a few pictures, too. I've sent the negatives down for copies to be made, positives where I have no negatives.

The affidavit is 113 ~~pages~~ pages, which is why I can't afford to have free copies available. I'm sorry. But I'm sure there is space at the new office for anyone who is interested to sit and read and a xerox so that he can get copies of anything he wants.

It takes about an hour to get here and we do have a decent copier. And, of course, I can answer any questions to which I have the answer. I do suggest that it may be of interest to the Times to see the extent of the records I have and how there is access to so vast an accumulation. This is a story that will never end and all of this and all else I get will be part of a university archive already started. So it will always be available.

It is precisely because I believe that reporters should not be limited to anything I might say that I wrote to a few, like you, so that anyone interested could go over it all, entirely independently.

My own opinion, confirmed by Fensterwald and Lesar and a professional historian is that the new information is of considerable importance. Terribly Byzantine, too.

It was a great shock to me when I called Mo the very day he'd died. He'd been talking of coming down and then I had some serious illnesses and I knew his condition, and perhaps it was ESP, but that day I decided to phone him. He was one of the most wonderful and most human of humans, very sensitive and perceptive and I'll remember some of his kindnesses as long as I live.

Especially in Memphis during the Ray evidentiary hearing where I was so all alone, as "o once put it, "fuckin' up the whole FBI and State of Tennessee."

I'm sorry I can't offer to drive to Washington with my copies of this material but I am not able to drive that far now. I drive only locally. I can ride fairly well and I have ridden as far as Washington, where I go for the surgeon to check me over from time to time.

I can't always arrange transportation, but this time a woman friend, who is about 75, will be my chauffeur. (I'm going on 89 now.) She still does a column for the local paper.

If I'm not mistaken, Wendell Rawls is the last one from the Times Washington bureau who was here, when the House committee was first established and he was new to assassinations. We had a few words once when Blakey suckered him and the Times, but I guess he forgave me because he called thereafter for help I was able to provide. It took him longer than it would from northwest because he left from his home.

I hope the Times does go over this material. I believe it is worth that much time. And there are no conspiracy theories in it.

Sincerely

Harold Weisberg

The New York Times

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1717 K STREET N.W.
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HEDRICK SMITH
Chief Washington Correspondent

September 4, 1981

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Rd.
Frederick, Md. 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

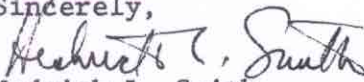
It was good to hear from you lately about your plans to release new information on the JFK assassination.

As you know, this is not a topic that I personally have followed in great detail. But when you have pulled together your package and can give us the backup material to go along with your general comments, we'd be glad to have it. And we want to be kept informed of your plans for the press conference.

It is a great, great shame that Mo Waldron is not still here with us to pursue the story, and simply to share his energy and vitality with us. His death was a real loss that I'm sure you felt as we did.

I hope that your health improves. Thanks for writing.

Sincerely,


Hedrick L. Smith