

HAROLD WEISBERG

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Dear Mr. Sloyan,

Although it is not the reason for my writing you, I've been given a copy of your review of the Posner book as it appeared in the Courier Journal and I suggest that if you again review a book on a controversial subject you do some of your own checking instead of taking the author's word, especially when a little bit of thinking could have suggested that the book had a pat formula, and a few phone calls might have directed you to specific checks to make. But that ^{can} wait for about six months and then you'll be able to decide for yourself whether you trusted those who ought not be given trust automatically because, your words, publishers ^{can} twist facts to ^{sell} suit their book as well as authors.

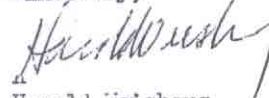
What you refer to ^{as} the Warren Commission "compromise" is not at all what Russell and Cooper wanted and accepted. It is fancy words to say the same thing as they objected to. Here, the supposed transcript of the supposed executive session was not made and the record for ~~the~~ history that Russell told me he intended making was wiped out in advance.

Until his dying day Russell encouraged me to disprove the Report. He, not I, was the first objector to the single-bullet basis of the entire report. (A slick con job in Posner's book.) The recent stories from the LBJ phone transcripts are not inaccurate in their reference to LBJ's line about 40,000,000 dying, which I published in 1967, but that was ^{not} what Russell ^{believed} was the reason for Johnson putting him on the Commission almost as soon as Russell believed he had talked him out of it. Russell was quite explicit in telling me he believed that LBJ wanted to keep him from leading the anticivil rights fight in the Senate.

The story that the Kennedy family permitted Warren alone to view any of the autopsy film also is fiction. Bobby put no restriction on anything the Commission ^{needed} it needed. It was the Commission that chose not to make any ^{real} use of that film. I am confident that if it had the ~~Report~~ ^{as} issued they'd have had real trouble with.

Sorry my typing can't be any better.

Sincerely,


Harold Weisberg