

Dear Mr. Shepherd,

Here is the next chapter. My wife has not had a chance to read it for typos.

We are foregoing that so she can get to the very long chapter, really a part, that awaits her typing.

It is almost a separate book on the FBI and on an aspect of the FBI that, insofar as I am aware of the literature, has never been told. In telling how the FBI itself became part of the obstruction of justice, in the words of the Acting Director and of some of its reporting, I also tell how it works in political cases to achieve predetermined results. To a degree I have done this in my assassination writing, but never isolated like this.

After the chapter I am now writing, another long one that also is really a part, I'll be getting into the suppressed evidence and the investigations never made. I think you now realize, if you have been able to follow developments, that pressures are forcing the Senate committee to return to some of what it suppressed, witness the publicity on the Hughes material of which long ago I send you an unread bit.

The activist writer, if I may use the phrase, may face conflicts of interest. In my case this usually means I have to resolve them against my interest. Thus you have been reading about a part of the book I decided to give away in the interests of society. There may be more. The thing that may not be easy to understand is that often it is not easy. The media reluctance to innovate and really expose what is not leaked must be hard to believe.

What you may have seen or heard about Jaworski's CIA complication is my work. It took me a week to give it away! When the major media friends I told were not able to get it past their desks, I used a west-coast backdoor, an old friend who is a radio reporter. His management is ultra-conservative, pro-Nixon, and journalistically honest. They are excited over their scoops and fed them to the wire services. It took UPI three days to screw up enough ~~enough~~ courage to run the story. Only then did the papers get the courage to ask me for more. A Post reporter spent yesterday afternoon and evening here and left with about 40 pages of documents from my files.

The same with Ford and his ghost on the public payroll and his commercializing his Warren Commission role, only part of which has been used. I've been too busy to keep tabs.

In both cases, these are parts of another book that became relevant in this. I had done the work earlier and I knew the characters and had the proofs in hand.

I have done some of this in the past and may have to do more in the future, but I think it will not diminish the "new" content of the book. You may recall what I assure you is only a very small part about the CIA.

In writing these explanations, it occurs to me that I may be impelled to do it by a persisting concern that in spite of all the revelations this remains essentially an incredible story and I am concerned about credibility even when there can be no doubt about what is fact and what is true. It must boggle the mind that does not contend with it, as I have in the milder past and in the present.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg