

Harold Weisberg Hyattstown, Md. 20734
301-WA6-2034 6/26/66

Mr. Jerry Tallmer
The New York Post
75 West St.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Tallmer,

After speaking to you Friday I was on the Long John Nebel program, where Nebel gave me an advance copy of LOOK. This contains an essentially dishonest attack on the Epstein book, about which Mr. Lerner has just written a column. I tell you this in case Mr. Lerner is interested, for this can result in an attack on him. I presume the copies of LOOK had been obtained for use against Epstein, who was invited to participate but declined.

I promised to send you copies of my book WHITEWASH: THE REPORT ON THE WARREN REPORT, and I can and shall if you cannot get one to read yourself and if your reviewer and Mr. Lerner also cannot. I find that on or about May 9 I gave the Post four copies, two delivered to the National Press Bldg. office and copies sent special delivery to Murray Kempton and James Wechsler. On Friday Mr. Wechsler's copy was still in his office. Kempton was not available by phone.

Obviously, it is to my interest, since I seek the interest of your paper, to send you copies, and I shall if you need them, whether or not you or anyone else writes of my book. But my situation is not that of the ordinary writer or publisher (and I am both) for I am without funds and have what for me is a very large printing bill to pay. My only means of meeting this bill is by the sale of these books, and the number I have given away is for me vast. So, please let me know if you or any of your people want copies not now available to you and I'll supply them. In the remote event you'd like some in a hurry, The Dimondstein company, one of my distributors, can supply them and I'll either credit them or replace the books.

The book now has five major distributors handling it and will receive additional reviews. The Sunday Times of the 3rd. will have a joint one with Inquest. The current New Republic has one. I know of others that are pending. Perhaps this and the not inconsiderable previous radio attention will also help.

Should you have ^{occasion} to speak to Mr. Lerner, to whom I shall write when I catch up on the accumulation, which is too much for one man to be away for two days, please suggest to him that a careful reading of my book, which is restricted entirely to the evidence and which contains none of the opinion or conditioning imparted by staff lawyers who have their own records to justify to themselves and to history, may introduce him to new material he has not considered and may prepare him for the future, when I expect this entire thing to break wide open, and when there may very well be a strong move to make Earl Warren the goat. He made his own mistakes, but he should not bear the additional burdens of others, nor should they escape their responsibilities by having them transferred to his shoulders. The near future will further show this to be the doctrine of people who claim a liberal philosophy.

Thanks to you and the others, whether or not any of you do anything. If there is anything anyone would like of me, I'll do it if it is within my capacity.

Sincerely, yours,

20734

SP
Mr. Murray Kempton
New York Post
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Kempton,

If I correctly recall a really brilliant piece you did for the New Republic you had doubts about the story of the assassination and about the Report. I believe if you read this book you will have no doubts. You will know.

Its history is in the Preface, its "line", which is no line, in the two-part introduction, and its content is exclusively from the official information, to which it is referenced.

Going even further in debt for a private printing, with no arrangements made for distribution and no certainty that any can be made, with no funds for advertising, promotion or even postage, is not the indulgence of vanity. Sure, I'm proud of what I have done, proud that it was finished, save for a few minor additions, in mid-February 1965. But I also want the focus to be on the Report and the staff, not the Commission or its members. The FBI is part of the staff, really, for it provided the investigative and technical services. Other books of which I have heard may point elsewhere.

I tell you nothing about the contents of the book because on such a subject the book must stand on its own. I hope you will be interested enough to read it. If after reading it you find you can do so, we'd certainly appreciate any help you can give the book and any voice you can add to its only conclusion, that the job has not been done and must be, entirely in public and preferably by Congress. We expect most of the orders will be by mail. We hope to fill them the day they are received if they are accompanied by payment. Of course, we want regular distribution, just as we still want regular publication. Perhaps even a modest success in this form with attract either or both.

The book is supported by about a third of a million words of notes. My wife, who labored mightily, was my only collaborator. We are affiliated with nothing, aligned with nobody - completely independent. If there is anything else you'd like to know, ask me.

I'm sending Mr. Wechsler a separate copy.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

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58
Mr. James Wechsler, Editor
The New York Post
New York, N.Y.

Dear Jimmy,

This is what I called you about last Summer. The Preface explains the form and summarizes the history.

I hope you will read this personally, and that you will note that I focus on the Report and the staff and not the Commission or its members. I believe this is both honest and important, and I fear it will not be characteristic of other books of whose imminence I have heard.

If it is possible, I shall include copies of some of the appendix documentation on the chance you may be interested. The Litgens picture is copyrighted by AP, and I have paid for it only for use in this book.

There is no possibility this edition can pay for itself, even if it bears what may be the highest price ever on a paperback. I hope it will attract the commercial publication that has thus far escaped it.

If you did not buy the 36 volumes - and very few did - your Washington people are welcome to the use of mine. I welcome any checking and will do what I can to help it.

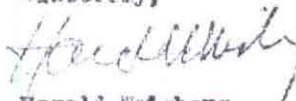
In referring to the staff above, I included the BEI, which drafted the initial report for the Commission and supplied it with most of the investigative and technical services. I have the full pages excerpted, obtained them properly, and your Washington staff can see them and satisfy themselves and you the excerpting is faithful. This refers to the last page of the Postscript.

This is a hurried letter in advance of receipt of the copies of the book, for I am without staff or funds and otherwise could not get the letters written. However, I do promise to facilitate any interest or questions you may have.

I don't know whether you ever met my wife. She was my only assistant. The research in this book is represented by about a third of a million words of notes.

Thank you for any interest you may have or anything you can do, and I do hope when this whole thing is public you will be among those who point in the right direction, not against the Commission or its chairman.

Sincerely,


Harold Weisberg