

Mr. Steve Parks, Editor  
Sunday Baltimore Sun Feature Section  
Baltimore Sun  
Baltimore, Md.

10/2/78

Dear Mr. Parks,

Source materials relating to political assassinations are notoriously un-dependable. Most are improvisations based on ripoffs of what was not authentic to begin with. With reuse further distortations and exaggerations are added for attractiveness or to conform with pet belief.

An enormous amount of baseless conjecture is represented as fact. Mythologies have come to be accepted as fact from mere repetition and quotation. It has come to the point where I cannot recognize my own work when cited and quoted.

In recent years the plague has infested those who now have access to original records. Their representations often bear little or no resemblance to the records allegedly used.

When someone like you, who has a regular job, undertakes a rewrite he begins with the lions and ends wishing it had been a snake-pit.

Two reasons impel me to write after a glance at your last Sunday's piece. It awaited me on my return from a trip.

First I suggest that you burn everything you have written on the subject and scatter the ashes in the dark of night. If you do not neither your reputation nor self respect will survive.

Secondly, only too often I am embarrassed by remote-generation representations of my work that often persuades the reader my actual work and belief are reflected.

The totality of factual error is astounding.

Aside from some proper names and the fact that there were transcripts and they were classified there is virtually no correct ~~misquoting~~ statement.

The case did not go to the Supreme Court. It did not get to the appeals court, either. There is no connection, by date or otherwise, with Ehrlichman. The January 21 transcript was not involved and you refer to an entirely different lawsuit in any event. Only 10 pages of the January 21 transcript were withheld. There never was any March 4 transcript and there were later ones. I recently obtained two and made them public, with wire-service coverage. I did not "surmise" that those sessions concerned Oswald and in fact knew they did not. None of the content you cite exists at all.

The rest of the piece is faithful to what I say - incredibly inaccurate.

Despite extensive knowledge of the nut literature I have trouble identifying your sources. It makes me wonder if some "researcher" has taken advantage of you.

These kinds of pieces have a way of passing through official hands and getting deposited in official files as my belief and writing. They thus do become hurtful to me.

The FBI once told the LBJ White House that an annual religious gathering at my home was an annual celebration of the Russian Revolution, allegedly based on a report in its files. When I gave the Department of Justice indication of the existence of what later became known as the Cointelpro operations this was recorded by the FBI as me conspiring with the National States Rights Party to defame the FBI.

Most of those who take the time to write books about the political assassinations are deeply concerned and very serious. It therefore is not easy for me to write you as I do.

It is an act of friendship, not of animosity, as you will learn if you birth the monster. Please believe me or that monster will be on your back the rest of your writing life.

Please ~~excuse~~ excuse the haste and the typing. I've been aware for a very tiring week. I write only to save you from what you may not believe me can be considerable embarrassment if not also professional harm.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg