

John Pilger 4/15/69: When meet, there is word about about
Ray's Navy

Wast
When answering letters, did not tell me your location (when I phoned about something else he said still Australia). I used the successful means. I had expected you'd be going to England by way of the US. There are some things I wanted to show you before you got to England. That is now academic.

Sometimes, when we meet people, we impulsively and with the most serious intentions of doing so, make offers that later are a problem or a bore. You said there were people you would speak to in England. Do not feel badly if you have forgotten or don't want to. However, I explain this: the average media attitude toward the assassination is partly warranted, for those with public-relations help are listened to but invariably repeat the past or come through as irresponsible and not to be trusted. Also, understanding what is new, important and usually exciting sometimes requires understanding of some of what is known, and, save for bright people, may require referring to that.

However, there is an enormous amount of what is new, is scandalous, should make good reading at the least. I have much, parts of it written. Since seeing you I have copyrighted three limited editions. I now know what the autopsy pictures and X-rays show, what was done with and to them. I also know, even have receipts for, some of what was destroyed, know by whom, when and where, how, under whose orders and am confident the why I'll supply is credible (that book is only partly written). To the completed book on the three assassinations (boasting: no word of which requires changing after two trials) I'll be adding what is new: that Ray was framed, that there was no evidence making him the murdered, that his "friends" were party to it and why. Here I refer to both Foreman and Guite. I have the closest thing to proof that he would not have been electrocuted and that his counsel had every right to be confident he would not, from an official and very proper source. I could go on and on. I have two of three books on the autopsy done (may include the charge of perjury in the testimony and the irrefutable proof of it, and they move the subject into a different area, not that of the Commission but that of government, especially the Attorney Gen., that good ole Texas boy Ramsey Clark (Dallas)).

The problem with what I have written is that it is part of an enormous task I have undertaken, is chiefly designed for a complete record, as, perforce, is all first-draft. I have no time for editing. That time I use for more research, investigating and writing.

If you are not returning to this country any time soon, does your presence in a city here, not professionally biased, who I could trust and could give your people a reasonable evaluation, in the event they could get interested? If you are, I could meet you at the Washington or Baltimore airports, from which we are but an hour, and you could also stay here. You said you plan a Washington trip.

Now, there is a favor I might ask of you. I have asked another to try. I want a copy of all the documents used in the Bow St. Magistrate's court in the Ray case. I would like to see the trial transcript, at least the testimony the US government put in, such as fingerprints, ballistics, etc. Can you help? If the one I have asked cannot get the documents, could you ask the US embassy for a set? They are all public now because they are part of the proceeding. I want some devil exercise; I love scripture. If this can be borrowed, I'll gladly deposit the replacement cost in advance.

7-11-68
Harold Weisberg

Sorry I had the wrong paper, especially because the wrong one says well, looks for scandal and has the Sunday issue, which is so big over there. I want to try and exploit the collateral rights to get enough money to publish the books. I'm too far in debt to risk added indebtedness. With the fear of the subject in this country, and without a highly improbable angel, there is no other way I can achieve publication. Imagine, such material and unpublishable! What a society, what a world!

From the look on your face, the first thing I remember from my temporary blackout in N.O., I am confident you recall it. Well, there is still a knot over the left eye, I still have not recovered the

sense of balance I had (slightly impaired then) and the blow on the right knee, not discovered until late the next day, when it began to ache and stiffen, apparently caused a burattis condition that gradually worsens. I force myself to regular and uncomfortable exercises but they do not prevent the very rapid aging on my knees and legs. I now spend part of every day in physical exercise, like cutting trees down and into firewood, digging, etc. I like it and maybe it is slowing things down. But it is neither cure nor preventive. Ah to be half again your age again!

As you see, the estimate I gave you of New Orleans was precisely accurate, as was the caution. It was quite painful to be so correct. I wish I could write the story of what I blundered into there on my unexpected return from Dallas, and its consequences. That book would be saleable.

Best regards, hope you do come back soon, and thanks for anything you can do.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

11/9/91

Dear John,

You depended on the most un dependable sources and perhaps to a degree on misty memory. In any event, your piece is overloaded with factual errors I did not want to mention and embarrass you.

I do not know whether you'll be writing more on either the assassination of this monstrous movie. But if you do, I invite you to check what is represented as fact to you. The field crawls with those who belong under stone and those who ~~do not~~ just do not know what they talk about. What they do not take from others they just make up. If you have the occasion, my phone is 301/473-~~81~~ 8186. But I do have to retire early. Among other less serious operations I've had a left femoral arterial bypass, followed by two life threatening complication, plus open-heart surgery, with three bypasses.

I hope that in my haste and a little pain I have not been less comprehensible than I should have been.

One of the reasons I urge you to check anything you may yet write on this is because when the movie comes out there will be more controversy and a publication that remembers this article may ask you to ~~write~~ ^{write} another. Perhaps there will be articles critical of the movie over there and your piece will be remembered. Because it is such a disgusting thing, with Garrison having the gall and the bad taste to rewrite his own history, ~~and he about it~~, too, I want the people to know the truth. But I do not want you to be hurt in any way.

What we believed we had ~~had~~ reason to credit in 1968 is in fact trash and wrong ^{to}. It was not pleasant for me to get the ~~proof~~ ^{proof} and I cannot really explain to myself how or why it took me so long to tumble to what Garrison really was, and did.

Please remember that because the Warren Commission was wrong, knowingly as I now can prove with official documents, does not mean that all the allegations of its being wrong are ipso facto right. ~~Most are not.~~ ^{in these theories} That there was a conspiracy is beyond question. But this does not mean that all the many ~~identifications~~ ^{identifications} of the conspirators are right. They are not. according to Rusconi, Stone believes and his original script says that those who did the ^{copying up} did the killing. Not so, and I have records on that, too.

I hope you are well and happy. Best wishes, Hal

My apologies for the ribbon, too. My wife reminded me that she'd gotten me a new one, which I'd forgotten. Stone has hired Bobby Kennedy's former aide, Frank Mankiewicz, for "damage control." Several magazines have articles in the works, some due very soon. So this is not about to end soon. I don't care what appears in England but I do not want you to undermine your reputation and credibility.

(From Hill + Knowlton)

(sent with letter to The New Statesman, where a copy is filed)