

3/29/76

Mr. Larry Gonzalez  
Articles Editor  
Playboy Magazine  
919 N. Michigan Ave.,  
Chicago, Ill. 60611

Dear Larry,

Your call today came as I was about to leave for a medical appointment, as I told you. However, when you also said that you were leaving and that the issue was to be locked up in 20 minutes, any further conversation was, really, academic.

If you missed anything it will not be academic for me. So, I'd appreciate a set of proofs at your earliest convenience. I think it would be a good idea to send me copies of the two JFK pieces. I've not seen them.

When you told me not to worry, that it was all taken care of I felt good, of course. However, as I was driving to the appointment some of your language came back to me. It is not at all unequivocal. And it depends on your (pl) interpretation. You did not, for example, say you were not using any of my work, as I think of your formulation. Which leaves besides a determination over which I am uneasy about what was removed, my published and copyrighted work and what others have ripped off.

However, between the call from Leonard Rubin and yours I am in the position where I have to take you all at face value when it comes to something as serious as seeking an injunction. I can't do that lightly, it would hurt Playboy much, and I have your word I have nothing to worry about. I just don't like the formulation once I had time to think about it, so I'm still uneasy. A set of proof would resolve this. When I get them if I find anything objectional I will respond, with specifics.

It is at least a month since I raised these questions. I'm sorry you ignored my letters because if you had not none of this would have become a problem. There was plenty of time. Rubin assured me last week that there ~~was~~ was no deadline problem. But you called only 20 minutes before you locked the issue up, which is a deadline problem. I feel these things should have been discussed with me. I may, for example, on getting Mary's reaction, not have specified each instance because I had written and these were not her decisions.

I've gone to some trouble and sacrifice to make consultation possible. I rushed back from New York with the business that took me there unfinished a week ago. I cut my business in Washington short Friday and hired a car to bring me home to save several hours. I was home from lunchtime on Friday. I told Rubin I'd not leave over the weekend and I didn't. Or, in the two weeks since I raised these questions when my letters were ignored, I've seen to it that there was ample time for resolving any questions and you are not paying me those wasted costs.

Let us hope my fears are groundless but until I see the piece in its final form I am not going to be at ease on this.

There now is the question of pay for the work I've done on this piece and, if you want me to work on the others, where I have less knowledge but in some cases it is pretty definitive, can we possibly arrange it so that it won't tear my life apart? I do, as I think by now you know, take this kind of obligation seriously. Particularly with what a non-expert has little way of knowing, with the potential for hurt to Playboy. Jim promised me a xerox of this last piece when he sent it to you. It has never come. I suggested this to him when we finished going over the first JFK piece but he did not answer. Of all the people likely to make trouble, some of those whose interest has been

the RFK case may be most likely. Some are strange types. Right now they are very frustrated because they loused their big moment up. It is not because I did not warn the most rational of them in advance and prepare him. He, however, will not be any problem. He is a responsible if frustrated man.

The final scientific report was not accurately represented in the press. It says and means nothing like the headlines. But it was basically irrelevant to the two big remaining questions: was there a conspiracy and what in itself means there was one if the answer is unresolved definitively, was there another shooter. There was no ballistics testing of the fatal shot and there could be none. Other tests were made and destroyed.

I strongly recommend that some read this part of Post Mortem. It is part of the fourth part and can be found from the index. This is published and I have no objection to the use of any of it if a) credited to the book and b) paid for at any reasonable rate. You can, of course, get the benefit of it for understanding at no cost. I do think that it is safer to be less a semi-official apologist on the remaining pieces and it is past time. I've not heard any but bad reaction to what you've published and remarkably little considering your circulation. Mostly the stuff is just dismissed as nothingness, which is what it is, tragically.

I have extensive clippings files on both Wallace and RFK if you want to use them. I told Tom I have a holograph of Bremer's diary if you want to use it. Maybe the part where he is impotent in the massage parlor? It can make a visual.

Can you lay out a time schedule for me so I can arrange no new appointments for those periods? Right now I have to be away for several days beginning 4/18. I don't think I'll be back before the 23rd. And I do have three cases actively in court right now. They are important to me and require some time because they will be precedents under the new FOIA law.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg