

Route 12, Frederick, Md. 21701

10/15/75

Mr. Jerry Polioff
69-01 35th Ave.
Jackson Heights, N.Y. 11377

Dear Jerry:

Lil will type this and mail it when she has time. I expect to go into hospital tomorrow (10/15). It appears not to be serious.

As I told you at the Georgetown conference and to be sure you did not misunderstand asked Robert to be sure you did not misunderstand, I did not want any resumption of any relationship with you. I cannot cope with your attitudes, your emotional problems, your arrogance and self-importance and I do not want to waste all the time involved. At the time of the disagreement with Wecht to which you refer in this letter, it is both self-serving and illustrative of the point I make. I tried to arrange this so that you would appear to do the breaking-off and you would not add to your unrecognized emotional problems.

There is nothing but self-serviced in your letter of the 11th. It does not, for example, even refer to what I told you is every person's right, not just mine, and it does not refer to why you did not consult me in your arrogant and unilateral determination of what you described as in my interest. You do not respond to what is irrefutable, my having approached New Times and the Saturday Evening Post for ancillary rights and if these people do use my work they can do it in the normal way. I have never had any interest in personal publicity nor do I share any longing to see my name on top of a magazine article. I have my own reasons for not sharing your concept of constructive public relations.

Now if you think there is no basis for what you describe as my smelling a rip-off, ask yourself it is an unfair reflection of those whose names you mention with only the Jan. 22 transcript (and there is more). Read what O'Toole wrote about this and how carefully in his book and if you have any doubt about what SerVass was up to, which I describe as trying to kill WHITEWASH IV until some undetermined date after O'Toole's appearance - and it was almost a year - ask Jim. Ask yourself how honestly Anson and New Times have written about this when I tried to sell it to them, did speak to him, he knows the whole story, and I have heard nothing from him since.

I don't know why you would want to keep the parts of Post Mortem you have with the book about to appear. I would prefer that you do not and see no need for it. You do not address anything else I said about any of my files. In the past you have lied about this and refused to take the time to check your files. Thereafter, inadvertently you returned only copies of pictures to Jim and in the envelope in which they were mailed to me. This one illustration is enough to establish that back at the time of the disagreement over Wecht your response was not truthful.

Harold Weisberg

cc: JLesar
HROffman

Files: Anson - New Times - SEP

10/11/75

Dear Harold;

I have no intention of engaging in the type of correspondence with you that I endured several years ago. I am replying to your letter point by point, and I will not make any further reply.

To begin with, I have discussed the medical evidence with several people often. This does not mean that I discussed your work. Although I have long had Post-Mortem I and II, I read part I only about two months ago for the first time. I have read only part of part II. One need not have read your unpublished material to be able to intelligently discuss the medical evidence (you may have noted, incidentally, that I scrupulously avoided use of the Berkley death certificate in my New Times discussion of the back wound). I have read Roffman, Meagher, Bernabei, Finck's testimony, court briefs filed by Garrison, and a great deal of other material that has given me an excellent lay understanding of the medical evidence. I honestly do not feel that I require your permission to discuss this material.

Now, as for the Saturday Evening Post. About five or six weeks ago I received a call from George O'Toole. He told me Cory SerVaas was looking for a peice summing up the differing interpretations of those who had seen the photos and x-rays, i.e. what Wecht, Lattimer, Fischer, Morgan, Spitz, etc. felt they demonstrated. She was **thinking of asking Wecht** to do it and O'Toole suggested to her that I might be able to do a more objective job (O'Toole and I had previously had a discussion of medical evidence which included Wecht). I tentatively agreed, reluctantly. My feeling was that I could put the observations of these people side by side (including Spitz' observations which you know about because I told you) and show how it appeared that several saw different material or were incapable of understanding what they saw. In this context I felt I could insert an additional expert on the medical evidence -- yourself -- and thus plug your book. Thus I saw a way to plug Post-Mortem and at the same time prevent Wecht from gaining such a widely read forum. I had no intention of writing anything on your work without your consent or even submitting a manuscript without your approval. I called Jim instead of you because I knew you would smell "rip-off" and "ego-trip" before I got out my first sentence, and I felt Jim would at least be allowed to complete a few paragraphs. When you reacted the way you did I contacted Howard as a possible co-author. My reason as I explained it to Howard and am now explaining it to you was that I felt you would more readily accept Howard's expertise and good will than you would mine.

In the meantime, SerVaas, wanting an article quickly, apparently went elsewhere. Anson has approached New Times and we are awaiting an answer. Howard, not I, is writing the piece. I am supplying him with some transcripts and interviews. If the piece is commissioned Howard will have the by-line. I will have only a box which will consist of a comical look at the good Dr. Lattimer.

As far as giving your work away, I have ~~committed~~ ^{committed} the horrible sin of telling several people that you have a dynamite book coming out which will destroy for all time the credibility of the autopsy report and the single assassin theory. I have not discussed specifically any item I learned from reading Post-Mortem.

Those are the facts. Take them any way you will. I would like to keep PM if I may. If I may not let me know and I will ship both volumes back to you.

Best wishes,

cc: Luer
Roffman

Jeremy