

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
9/10/75

Mr. Bob Kelley
Church Intelligence Committee
New Senate Office Bldg.,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Bob,

The part of my work we discussed in the past has come to a point where I can give you and Mac a sort of progress report. I do expect to be able to print the complete book in the not distant future. I am preparing for this. Most of the work is complete. This does not mean the book is ready for the printer, though.

I did obtain more material. I had to write a fourth part of the book. It is completed. There will be a very large appendix of the kind of documents of which I showed you samples. It is completed and annotated so it can be comprehended without reading of the full text. After all the other work is done there may be space for further documentation, in still another area of evidence. I have that material selected. Some time this week, whenever I can make the arrangements, I'll have this prepared appendix xeroxed because that will be necessary for indexing. This xerox copy will be safe for handling should you, Mac or another want to take a look at it. Extra handling of the copy that goes to the printer by the process I'll be using is not good for the originals. I mention this because if Mac does come up for dinner some evening, as you said he intended after the end of the recess, I think flipping through this appendix alone will give him a fair enough notion of the solidity of the evidence and its meaning.

Since we spoke I have obtained more evidence directly pertinent to that I showed you as well as other on different aspects. Part of the former is in the appendix, part in the text, but I think enough in the appendix to give Mac an idea of its significance. While all in the second category has a clear legislative-purpose relevance, it requires more work. However, I can show enough of that by simple illustration to make this clear. I will be writing about it separately when I can.

Mac remembers some of my early work. He was not putting you on when he spoke of his initial beliefs. He then saw legislative purpose and tried without success with the House Judiciary Committee, of which he was then a member. ~~But~~ Manny Celler would not listen to him. The conclusion of that first book more than a decade ago was that there must be a Congressional investigation. All my work since then has been with this in mind. I think I now have more than enough for an investigation. By this I mean not only enough to justify one but a fair part of what one could expect to develop and the basis for seeking more. Enough under oath to make quite a beginning for the questioning of witnesses of the most dramatic nature.

In short, aside from content, there is not enough that is organized comprehensibly to give Mac a fair notion of the evidence without his having to take the time to read a book that will total 660 pages. Any time is OK here.

I've been too busy to keep up with public statements so I'm not familiar with the details of Senator Schweiker's latest. It is apparent that a large part of it comes from my work, two of the Warren Commission executive session transcripts I've obtained under FOIA. I've kept up a steady effort for them for years. They were originally all Top Secret. I now have all except two and two pages of one. I filed under FOIA for these last week, having exhausted administrative remedies.

I did a hasty book around one of these transcripts last year. Mac has a copy. The last one I got is included in this book I'm working on. From what I heard on the radio news Schweiker did not exaggerate their content. Or its significance. The other part of his reported statement deals with the latest and exaggerated report out of Dallas. I have no doubt that Oswald delivered such a note but I believe the belated FBI explanation of it can't be within reality. This gets into still another area on which I have worked for years and have a book well started. However, I would recommend against Mac's spending any time on this Oswald part at this juncture because it is not perfected to the point the material in the current book is. If he is curious I'll be glad to encapsulate what I know and have.

If Schweiker has prepared statements and it is no trouble for you to get me a copy I'd appreciate one. His office was in touch with me several weeks ago on this and I told them the easiest way to get copies of those transcripts. They have not sent me a copy of what he said.

However, I do not agree with Schweiker's proposal to lump another investigation in with the one for which your committee will not have enough time. I do hold to the view I expressed to you, that there is much more than is necessary as a factual basis for recommending a separate investigation. I have it, it is all official in origin and I doubt a Senator will ever be able to hold more documentary proof in his hand when making a proposal for an investigation with an absolutely solid legislative purpose. While with the approach I have taken in seeking and obtaining this evidence has yielded what is clearly within the mandate of your committee, I believe it should not be lost in the current investigation and that it would be. I prefer to consider it (and my writing is explicit on this) in the context of one of Mac's more important legislative contributions if an under-appreciated one, his work on the growing trend toward authoritarianism. I do not mean this in the paranoid way that is getting so much attention as irresponsible and self-seeking people make the wildest charges. I do mean to say that the evidence I have obtained shows clearly that the executive agencies functioned and malfunctioned in a manner entirely consistent with the thrust of this earlier work of Mac's. If you want more explanation of this interpretation I'll be glad to take the time.

I do hope that Mac can find the time soon because in order to be able to pay for the printing of this book I have had to make offers of the ancillary rights. Inevitably this means the most sensational use. Because there is no other way I can bring this massive work out without increasing my debt I have no real choice. On the other hand this also means that there is the possibility for considerable attention to some of the evidence. I think it would be good if before that can happen Mac knows all he wants to know and has copies of all of which he wants copies and is prepared for whatever he may want to do.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg