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Dear Mr. Rubel,

Kind and thoughtful letters like yours mean much to me, and I thank you for taking the time to write it. I regret I haven't the time for the reply it deserves. I'll try and answer in haste.

On balance, just about all the best evidence of the Warren Commission is against what it says on those things that are central. It is true there is evidence on the other side. That is what the Commission used. Do you believe a sergeant is a better authority on what is an easy shot or good shooting than the Commandant of the Marine Corps? I do not. Or take the bag - all the evidence was the way I quoted. None supported the Commission. Nor is there any responsible evidence the other way on the Dallas police, the interrogations, etc. No, I didn't select unfairly. Another book I have read does. I see nothing good to be gained thereby.

I do not believe there is any solid, credible evidence supporting Oswald's guilt of anything. The Commission, to whose information I restricted myself, didn't have it. I should also make clear that I find Oswald an unappealing thing. I have no liking for him.

There is no doubt that no one person could have pulled this off. Certainly no one could have done that shooting. How many there were I do not pretend to know. But on the shooting, assuming there were any number of co-conspirators planted any place on Dealey Plaza. The first shot was enough of a signal for all. With scope, the space from Elm to Main was no problem, wherever they were. I'm inclined to think the flatter the trajectory, the easier the shot.

Oswald is far from alone in not returning to work. He knew that he'd be picked up right away, so he went elsewhere. Maybe he was in on something, maybe he had some romantic notion, maybe he thought he'd need the pistol to defend himself. But he is not the only one who left, and the fact is, as he is supposed to have told the police, he knew there'd be no more work that day. And there wasn't. There was an alarm out on one of the others before him.

Your questions are not irrelevant. We must all ask questions, whatever occur to us. There must never be a time when such questions are not appropriate.

Again, thanks for your letter.

Sincerely,

195 Adams St., Apt. 8F
Brooklyn, New York 11201
August 5, 1966

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Hyattstown
Maryland

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

After watching your appearance on the Alan Burke show a few weeks ago, I read your book, WHITEWASH. I must, in all honesty, say that I was intrigued and feel that you should be commended for what could turn out to be a real public service (I trust the book sales are good also, praise is hard to pay bills with).

I have read summaries of the Warren Commission Report and particular sections of it in detail. Although this by no means qualifies me as an expert on the Report, it, in my mind, gives me some leg to stand on, which I am afraid some of your antagonists on the show the other night didn't have. Consequently, I would like to make a couple of comments and ask several questions. Please take these in the spirit in which they are given as I feel certain that all of us are looking for the truth, whatever it might be.

1. I am sure you will admit that you have an advantage. Your book concerns itself only with what you consider the negative aspects of the Report. You have the advantage of culling out those items whose validity you want to deprecate. There is no question in my mind that of the "facts" which you mentioned (which are many), you have very ably proven in many cases that they are questionable, foolish, or useless as the case may be. However, it takes "two to tango" and it is hard to tell just by reading your book whether there is any evidence supporting the possible guilt of Oswald. It is difficult to read the Warren Report and then your book and try to make a comparison. Perhaps if both the positive and negative aspects were weighed at the same time under one cover, we might see how the case stacks

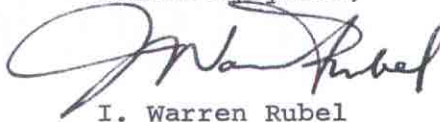
August 5, 1966

up. I will not delude myself into thinking this is easy to do and certainly biases and prejudices in such a book would have to come through. However, it might be useful even with those limitations.

2. I find strong evidence in your book to indicate that Oswald wasn't alone, if at all involved, in the assassination of the President. However, there are a couple of points which I just cannot dismiss offhand. (a) If Oswald was a "fall guy" or even innocent, why did he find it necessary to leave the book depository in the middle of the day, return to his home, which he did, get a gun (if he didn't already have that with him) and go to a movie? I am not interested in whether or not he killed Officer Tippit (I don't mean this sarcastically; it just doesn't have any bearing in this point). There just doesn't seem to be any likely explanation for his actions. (b) Assuming there was a conspiracy and more than one person was firing at the motorcade, you, yourself, have proven that all of the shots at the President's car took place within a few seconds. If we can assume for the moment that someone shot the rifle at the Presidential car, but didn't hit anyone, wouldn't any other co-conspirator have to have had beautiful timing, as a matter of fact, miraculous timing to start firing at the same moment in order to hit the President from the front or any other direction? Considering that the route of the motorcade wasn't known until that morning, it is doubtful if such a conspiracy could have been joined and all the timing necessary to fire at a Presidential car almost simultaneously--all this to be worked out in the space of a few hours! Even if no one fired the rifle found on the sixth floor, but the shots came from somewhere else, there would almost have to be superhuman timing involved for each one to start firing simultaneously from different directions at the President, especially in view of the last minute knowledge of the motorcade's route.

Perhaps these questions are irrelevant and there is a ready explanation for them. I imagine only time and further investigation will prove this out. I commend you once again on a marvelous analysis of the Report and wish you continued good luck in your efforts to get to the bottom of this heinous crime.

Sincerely yours,



I. Warren Rubel

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