Ben Bradlee
Wash. Post
1150 15 St., NW
Wash., D.C. 20005

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Dear Mr. Bradlee,

Again I take time I do not have in an effort to help you to assume your responsibilities or at least provide a basis for your looking into propaganda your paper presents as news and opinion. Again I'll send Les Whitten a copy. I refer to this morning's copy of that column as it appeared in the Post, not the full column. Again I remind you that I am asking nothing for myself. I now had added motive, however, because I've heard that you have assigned two experienced reporters to the JFK assassination. Well, I will remind you of our first meeting. It was on this and I put into you hands what ten years ago would justify your today's head, substituting FBI for CIA: "FBI Withheld Data in JFK Probe."

Considering that I have published six books on this that remain without substantial question and entirely without refutation, sure is hot news.

First graf, "evidence suggesting." Both words are false, as is the earlier attribution to Sylgia Duran, repeated after I wrote about this. So is the date of the incident.

There was no "evidence." There was a totally unsubstantiated report by a person who had his own, biased objectives. He did not suggest. He stated explicitly what was soon proven totally false: he saw Oswald given $6,500 to kill JFK. (I've had those files for months. I had earlier records from other sources. There was no need to mask this in the Schweiker report.)

This whole business is part of an indecent anti-Kennedy campaign that to the best of my knowledge is baseless. My belief it is purposeful, by those with their own objectives. This: "Since Robert Kennedy rode herd on the CIA..." If there is one thing that can't be reasonably questioned after the recent and inadequate Congressional hearings it is that nobody "rode herd" on the CIA and especially not in these areas. And when "there is no documentary evidence of this" what basis is there for "It must be assumed that he [RFK] was kept advised of subsequent [to 5/62] assassination attempts."

"Yet neither Kennedy nor Hoover divulged this important information to the Warren Commission."

This is totally false in all aspects. However, if you did not know, then let me tell you that Katzenbach not Kennedy dealt on that level with the Commission and the first thing LBJ did was to by-pass RFK. Not only did Hoover inform the Commission- the Commission knew independently by several means of which I believe I have informed you. One is in my first book, dating to 2/65 or before Pearson and Anderson were used to launch this disinformation and after they had a copy of it; the other is in that executive session transcript I got under FOIA and your national desk killed when I gave it to Bill Claiborne in 4/75. It is also in facsimile in my Post Mortem, which you have.

There is a reasonable limit to what can be attributed to the various spooks, whose misdeeds are burden enough without them being blamed for what they can't reasonably be blamed for.

Whether or not Dulles sat in silence on whatever this "Cuban angle" may be, the one referred to was no secret and the entire Commission and its staff knew of many of them.

I skip ahead to the date of this leak to the column, 1/67. This neatly coincides with what Jim Garrison was up to, although it was not then public. It was known. I, for example knew before the column. If Garrison needed no wrong turns marked for him, this was one of the early and effective ones, one about which I could do nothing.

I do raise a question about the timing. After all those years coincidence? When what Garrison might be able to do was unknown?

If "the Cuban connection" means the Rosselli connection only can it be accurate. I did it in a different way to all Commissioners in May, 1966.

No questions in an editor's mind about the CIA leaking this, through the man who was in actual charge?

Only one who has no knowledge of the facts of the actualt killing can suggest who did it. As in 1967 there today remains no basis for blaming a kickback assassination on RFK, whose admirer I was not.

My opinion is that suggesting this without something more than a headline to make is indecent, wretched journalism and a national disservice - part of a continuing campaign of disinformation that were it official could not better serve official purposes.

It is also my opinion that lobbying in newspapers belongs on the editorial or oped pages and that placing it elsewhere deceives the reader. If the column wants to lobby for the Downing resolution, as Smolenky indicated - even argued in favor of - then it should say at least that to relieve its deliberate lies.

These are deliberate lies in many ways. One is in having and having discussed my Post Mortem with me. Whether or not the column has the other books, which I gave it, this one is more recent and was discussed between us. The column, like the Post, refused to find news in that formerly top-secret executive session in which the Commission's knowledge of these matters is explicit, as is its agreement todestroy the record of deliberation, Dulles' proposal. And yes, Ford was there.

Having been informed of Edward P. Morgan's meticulous past I'd appreciate it if you could inform me whether he was with the FBI during the life of the Warren Commission. If so, perhaps the past is other than the column and, uncritically, you tell so many people.

I know something of that first column and the one after it. Morgan represented himself as serving <u>two</u> clients, not one. Why no mention of the second - ever? And if his lawyer-client privilege ended with Rosselli's death, it had not ended when he leaked what could have gotten his client killed. If in fact it didngt.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

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Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

CIA Withheld Data in JFK Probe

After President John F. Kennedy was struck down on Nov. 22, 1963, the Central Intelligence Agency received evidence suggesting that Cuban Premier Fidel Castro arranged the assassination in retaliation for attempts on his life.

Yet sources privy to the secret discussions at the highest levels of the CIA during those hectic days now tell us that the CIA deliberately withheld the evidence from the Warren Commission investigating Kennedy's death.

Our sources cite two reasons for holding back this evidence. One was a resolve to cover up the secret that the CIA had enlisted Mafia mobsters to kill Castro.

There also was a legitimate concern that the Castro revelations might inflame the American people, whose grief could have turned into a terrible wrath that might have precipitated some rash action.

Only a few key people knew about the CIA plot to assassinate Castro. One was Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, who was his brother's personal watchdog over the CIA. It has now been established that Robert Kennedy was briefed on May 7, 1962, about the attempt to use underworld killers to knock off Castro.

Two days later, Robert Kennedy cautioned the CIA not to go ahead with the assassination without consulting him. Since Robert Kennedy rode herd on the CIA, it must be assumed that he was kept advised of subsequent assassination attempts. However, there is no documentary evidence of this.

Records now available show that Robert Kennedy informed FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover of the plot on May 10, 1962. Yet neither Kennedy nor Hoover later divulged this important information to the Warren Commission.

Of course, various CIA officials also knew about the assassination scheme. Not the least of them was the late CIA chief Allen W. Dulles, who approved the original plan. He later served on the Warren Commmission, yet he sat silently throughout the investigation without mentioning the Cuban angle.

Within hours of President Kennedy's death, the U.S. embassy cabled information from Mexico City suggesting that the Cubans may have been behind the assassination. Our sources say that the CIA developed similar information in Washington.

The first person to reach Robert Kennedy's side after the shooting was CIA Director John A. McCone, who remained alone with the Attorney General at his McLean, Va., home for nearly three hours.

McCone swore to us that Castro's name was never mentioned during the three hours. But CIA records show that the next day McCone not only mentioned Castro to the new President, Lyndon B. Johnson, but briefed him on the information from Mexico City.

Yet no one brought the Cuban connection to the attention of the Warren Commission. We were the first to get word of the anti-Castro plot to Chief Justice Earl Warren, the commission chairman, four years later.

We are now free to reveal our role in the drama. Two of our confidential sources, CIA agent William Harvey and mobster John Rosselli, are dead. A third source, attorney Edward P. Morgan, has waived the confidentiality we had promised him.

Morgan told us in January, 1967, about the CIA-Mafia assassination plot against Castro. He raised the possibility that the plot could have backfired against President Kennedy. There were suspicious circumstances, he pointed out, indicating that Castro may have learned of the attempts on his life and may have retaliated against Kennedy.

Morgan refused to identify his sources because it would have violated the attorney-client privilege. But he was an attorney of such stature that we didn't doubt his word. He had been chief inspector of the FBI. He had directed the historic congressional investigation of the Pearl Harbor bombing. Later, he ran the investigation into the excesses of the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy.

We got Morgan's permission, to write a cautious story. We confirmed the general outlines from a CIA source. Then on March 3, 1967, we wrote that Robert Kennedy "may have approved an assassination plot, which then possibly backfired against his late brother."

The next day, according to records now available, Kennedy's secretary called for a copy of the May 7, 1962, memo, which summarized the briefing he had received on the assassination plot.

On March 7, 1967, we reported more details. "A reported CIA plan in 1963 to assassinate Cuba's Fidel Castro," we wrote, ". . . may have resulted in a counterplot by Castro to assassinate President Kennedy."