

7/4/72

Mr. Martin Singer, Editor
Sage Magazine
333 Johnson Ave.,
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dear Marty,

I'd hoped to see you again at ABA for I'd been toying with the idea of doing an expose on CIA domestic spying, which they deny. I'll include a hasty lead to give you an idea of part of what I have in mind. I'll tell you more here, including one thing I'll have to ask you to keep confidential for I haven't carried it as far as I can or at least hope to.

What brings this to mind again is a missing link I have in The Watergate Bugging Caper. I have a part of E. Howard Hunt's career that the press has missed. It is a prima facie case of his preventing something I had set with WHITWASH before I came out with the private printing. He was where it got killed. Of all the people in the world, you above all will understand part of this when you see it.

I have in mind a largely first-person story aside from the lead, of the things that have happened to me.

If you will recall the chapter you reprinted, you will recall that it says Oswald was intelligence. Motive enough for killing anything having to do with such a book in the first half of 1965? For a White House hand then CIA? And now the key figure in this bugging case, other aspects of which may be impossible with your lag. (I have much more on it and the figures in it and, a separate confidence, have been in touch with people on the case who may use my stuff, depending on whether they get to discovery and how it goes.)

What I didn't know when I wrote what you reprinted but have proved beyond the slightest doubt is that Oswald was connected with one of the most sensational espionage cases of all times. This is what you must, please, keep strictly to yourself. I am using it as a chapter in a book and if it interests you, we can talk about it then. I think it gives perspective to what I now propose, meaning to their interest in me in particular.

For me what is most important on this is dealing with an editor I can trust. Your people may have misgivings from the past, and if they do, that is the way it is. But believe me, Steve Bair was crooked on this, screwed your people and me both, and what it cost you was nothing to what it cost me. However, as you well know, there was no libel, Bair knew it and said my treatment was "exemplary", and what I never told you is that the book had two advance readings for libel by two top lawyers I could never afford. It was done for me by the most conservative publisher in the country, Bill Loeb, of the Manchester Union-Leader, who has been a very good friend. Had his secretary not goofed, the underground book would not have had to have been invented. That's another story.

Before I leave this unpleasantness of the past, let me tell you something else I don't think you know. ^{what} Bair wanted to fight the case not only out of principle but ~~was~~ he made explicit to me, to sell the book. It got killed above him at Dell. There is more involved. If it interests you, if and when we bend our elbows together, as we used to enjoy doing, I'll tell you the rest.

Because of our past, I would want your own lawyers to be completely satisfied in advance, even if you have no questions, as I am certain will be the case. Because I also expect to use this in a book partly written, I would also want to reserve the rights.

Until I finish this and write the lead, which is all I'll send until I hear further from you, I won't know exactly what I'll put in it. So I want you to know that I have and you can see in advance not only the box of carbon copies of this spying but a complete tracing of the front the CIA uses for this kind of spying. In addition, I have a transcript of a conversation between the regional and national manager of the private agency and a tape of a farout, really funny one of my own where I made a deal with him to keep him posted on my goings in return for his supplying me with copies! The deal was to increase his business with the CIA! A lawyer was a witness to this conversation and my taping of it.

If you want a pleasant weekend in the country, you can see and hear all of this stuff and more. Under normal driving conditions we are only a little over four hours from the Verazano Bridge or any of the tunnels, without a traffic light until five minutes from here. Expressway all the way. Or, an hour from National or Friendship airports, also all expressway from either.

So, let me know what you think and how much it sounds like.

Best regards,

Harold Weisberg