

1/29/75

Mr. Thomas Eastham, Executive Editor
San Francisco Examiner
110 Fifth Street
San Francisco, Ca.

Dear Mr. Eastham,

Under date of January 2 your secretary returned to me a letter I had written Donald Stanley and told me how to reach him. My thanks for these courtesies.

And my apologies for not having included the descriptive material about my new book. I do not know whether your paper carried any of the syndicated stories on it, but AP, UPI and the Washington Post syndicate all put extensive stories on the wire. From my mail, I presume the story was on the wire at a time not convenient for you because there always has been much interest in my work in the Bay area and the letters have been very few.

Allen Dulles' disclosures about the CIA, joined in by the late Senator Russell, who was then "oversight" chairman (and who encouraged me in my investigations of the Report of the Commission of which he was a member), today have a new topicality. So, I hope you will consider a review of this book. If you would like, I'll send you one.

It took me years and a suit to obtain the once TOP SECRET transcript of which all 90 pages are reproduced in facsimile, together with once-secret investigative reports.

One part of this transcript that has not been mentioned anywhere deals with the rights of reporters and the press in a way not consistent with the late Chief Justice Warren's public posture and reputation. Repressively. In the sense of non-rights.

But saying, in effect, that they all lie and commit perjury is, I think, quite relevant today when there is so much public interest in allegations of abuses by the intelligence agencies. This book is the only source of what I report to you and of much, much more.

I am a one-man publisher. This book has no commercial distribution in your State but it is available from me. I do hope you will see fit to call its existence if not also its contents to the attention of your readers.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

P.S. Yesterday's Supreme Court decision in the case of James Earl Ray is a consequence of work that began with my Frame-Up, of which the Publishers Weekly review is included in the enclosed flyer. I am Ray's unpaid investigator. My colleague in the new book has done most of the legal work although he is junior counsel and alone established yesterday's precedent, of the right to discovery under habeas corpus.

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

A HEARST NEWSPAPER

110 FIFTH STREET • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE (415) 781-2424

January 2, 1975

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 8
Frederick, Md. 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Donald Stanley left the Examiner
about six years ago.

If you wish to contact him, he
is with the Pacific Sun, 21 Corte Madera Ave.
Mill Valley, California.

I am returning your letter in case
you wish to send it on--and to say no flyer was
enclosed in the envelope.

Sincerely,

Secretary to
Thomas Eastham
Executive Editor

Harold Weisberg
Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701
12/21/74

Mr. Donald Stanley
Book Review Editor
San Francisco Examiner
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Mr. Stanley,

Back in 1966 you were perhaps the only professional book review^{OR} to treat Whitewash and its "strange" history (I think you called it that) with seriousness. Most ignored it, apparently in the hope it would go away and the troubling questions, about publishing and about the country, would just go away.

It hasn't and I haven't and neither will even now.

The history is longer but consistent. That and subsequent books have been part of it and I think it will be recorded more than now, have helped make a few changes. The amending of the Freedom of Information Law (Congressional Record 5/30/74) was influenced. And the current successes in the defense of James Earl Ray and the effort to get him a (the first) trial stem directly from my Frame-Up.

Frame-Up provided the beginning of a real Ray defense and a real investigation. Since it appeared I have been his unpaid and unpublicized investigator. Beginning before he took the District of Columbia bars my colleague in the new and fourth of the Whitewash series started working on the legal end. While he today is still the junior counsel he is, in fact, doing virtually all the legal work.

Also unpublicized is the fact that by January 6 the Supreme Court wants arguments from us and the State of Tennessee on a new precedent we have established, the right to discovery of a habeas corpus petitioner.

(We do not seek publicity and what we swept from the oblivion of official files makes the Ellsberg case look like support of the Constitution.)

The problems of which you wrote have not ended. Most of the wholesalers just didn't pay, which made their distribution of my three earlier Whitewash books a futility and a dead loss. Without means one can't sue, especially in foreign jurisdictions.

When initial effort with this fourth Whitewash was a replay of the history of the first, because at 61 I can't responsibly increase my debt my young colleague, whose first real case the "Ray case is, borrowed the money to pay the printer. Appearance of the book was delayed by our joint effort before and during the Ray evidentiary hearing on which there should be a decision before too long.

The book is available from me only. I spend part of each day making up and mailing packages. As a one-man publisher I am also a one-man shipping department. Virtually all sales to date are from radio shows I do by phone. Major news attention (WxPost syndication, AP and UPI stories) attracted radio interest but, with no address, almost no sales. No books in stores, of course. However, the radio stations are giving my address and the by-mail cost, \$6.25, and people send a check and a note. If this is a hell of a way to publish a book, for me there is no practical alternative.

I am also a one-man promotion department. As I remember and find time I write those who said something, whether or not favorable, to see if they are interested. If you are please let me know and I'll send you a copy. I enclose a flyer that gives a notion of the content.

Sincerely,
Harold Weisberg