



EDITORIAL OFFICES

641 LEXINGTON AVENUE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022 935-3434

The Saturday Evening  
**POST**

JOHN APPLETON  
Senior Editor

12 May, 1966

Dear Mr Weisberg,

I was glad to have a chance to read the printed book, but cannot overcome the feeling here that the zeal and skill of Robert Kennedy as Attorney General would have exposed any major defects in the investigation. Anyhow, my suggestion to you is this: make up a press release in which you boil down you major arguments and conclusions in simple language -- and leave out all the emotionalism and rhetoric of the book -- and in as concise a way as possible. Call a press conference, pass out the release and "the book that contains the proof of these statements" and invite questions.

As you know, the Mark Lane book is coming along in a few months, and if you think this a sound idea, you might want to do it soon. Meanwhile, many thanks and good luck.

Yours,

Harold Weisberg, Esq

*A Curtis Magazine*

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
WA6-2034

20724

May 16, 1966

Dear Mr. Appleton,

It is a common misapprehension that as Attorney General Robert Kennedy took an active interest in the investigation of his brother's assassination. Others believe as your people do, that sharp as he is, he would have detected major defects. However, he dissociated himself from the investigation as Attorney General and has followed the same practice as Senator. My information is from the best possible source: his office.

Last August 9, although discouraged by phone, I nonetheless visited his office and spoke to a Miss Stark. Explaining I asked nothing of the Senator but believed it was to his interest for someone he could trust to read the book, I offered a copy then. It was declined. I have heard nothing since. I mailed him and his brother a copy from the first off the binder. I have heard nothing. I have also sent copies to all the members of the Commission whose home addresses I could get - all except McCloy. Miss Stark made it clear that as of August Robert Kennedy was still dissociating himself from the investigation of the assassination, even refusing what little was written about it.

On the last page of the Postscript I reproduce excerpts from the FBI Report. If you read it, you will upon reflection, I believe, that Robert Kennedy was not associated with that. It fails to account for the wound in the front of the neck, fails to mention the "missed" bullet, and says the bullet that hit the President in the back did not go through his body, did not remain in it, and came at an angle of 45-60 degrees.

There is no reason to believe he had anything to do with the investigation and every reason to believe the opposite. Because you returned the book, I will not be forward and mail it back. However, I'd like you to have one available for the future and will send you one if you so desire. I do expect a number of things to happen which will have much to do with the acceptability of the book.

The Lane book will be published September 8. Wloser is a book about which I could not say anything earlier. Viking is making a big thing of it. Edward Jay Epstein is the author. I have been told the book contains what amounts to confessions of error from inside the Commission, that he had access to confidential documents, that the book is unlike mine in that it pays little or no attention to the evidence, and that magazine arrangements have been made. It is due the end of next month.

Your advice is both good and welcome. If some of those things I now have reason to expect do not come to pass soon, when there has been enough time for all the members of the Commission to have read my book, I shall follow your suggestion.

Sincerely yours,

Harold W. Bush

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
WA6-2034

20734

sf

Mr. John Appleton  
The Saturday Evening Post  
641 Lexington Ave.  
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Mr. Appleton,

In drafting this book I hoped that Part 2, dealing with the accused assassin in the hands of public authority, would stand pretty much alone. In addition to telling what happened to him and suggesting how it could be part of something bigger, I intended a commentary on the abuses of the rights of the individual that are possible if public authority is unrestrained.

Since then major segments of the bar and judiciary have become concerned and vocal about similar situations elsewhere. There has been a lively controversy, for example, between the Attorney General of the United States and some judges and ACLU lawyers over an official proposal to eliminate some of these abuses.

No one mentions Oswald, but the coincidence between what happened to him in Dallas and this new effort on the part of lawyers and judges is unmistakable.

Senator Morse has introduced a bill, S. 290, to effect a remedy. He was joined by 14 other Senators of both parties, a rather large sponsorship. The bill is now before a subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, of which Senator Joseph Tydings is chairman. A copy is enclosed. When I phoned you April 28th. I hoped that if the Post felt it could not summarize the book in the space it could allocate it might find some interest in either Part 2 or its first half.

The book appears in this form only because after 15 months I felt I had no alternative. I would still like commercial publication. It cannot be profitable in this form, and it cannot attract the attention I believe its contents warrant.

What I started to tell you in confidence has nothing to do with my book.

Should you be interested in Part 2, I have copies of the various statements referred to and quoted, of the floor plans, etc.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Weisberg