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Mr. Russell Stetler
424 North Street
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Dear Mr. Stetler:

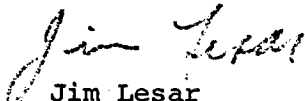
Thanks for sending me a copy of the introduction and conclusion to the excerpt which you are reprinting from Whitewash IV.

Because I am writing James Earl Ray's appeal brief, I can't spare the time to give you detailed criticisms. In any event, I am not an expert on spectrographic analysis or the assassination of President Kennedy. For criticisms of accuracy and content, of which I am sure there are some, I would urge that you solicit the opinion of Harold Weisberg.

I am unhappy with the writing, which lacks focus. I am disturbed by the failure to mention certain elemental facts which the reader ought to have. Harold Weisberg was the first critic to call attention to the significance of the spectrographic analyses. On May 23, 1966, he wrote J. Edgar Hoover demanding that the test results be made public. Since then he has filed two lawsuits to force their disclosure. Yet these facts, which help give the reader a better perspective and accurate specific information, are not mentioned. Except for the one instance where it is impossible to avoid, all mention of Weisberg is excized. Instead there are vague general references to "critics", a category which in the minds of many of your readers includes Skolnick, A.J. Weberman, and the latest escapee from the nearest nuthouse. I think credit ought to be given where it is due, to Weisberg, not to the crazies or to his unequal imitators, Wecht and Nichols. To do otherwise is bad scholarship and worse politics.

The statement that in April, 1975, "the FBI released 73 pages of raw data from the spectrographic tests to Harold Weisberg" is factually inaccurate, but I don't know what the correct figure is, since I've left the counting of pages to Harold.

Sincerely yours,


Jim Lesar

cc: Paul Hoch
Peter Dale Scott