

6/30/70

Mr. Thomas Kelley, Asst. Dir.
U.S. Secret Service
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

It is now more than a month since I heard from you, about a month since I responded. I hope this does not represent reversion to the period when proper requests were improperly ignored.

However, I still desire copies of the information I have requested. You will recall that on the occasion of our meeting March 4, three and a half months ago, I discussed these things and gave you a copy of the brief notes I used to keep the various items in mind. Aside from your own notes, you have those to remind you. Because I am aware that you have pressing obligations, I have not kept after you about this, but my interests and my desire for this information, where it exists, is unchanged. And quite some times has elapsed.

Among the things in which I have most interest, things that do exist and have not been supplied in response to my requests, aside from those about which I have recently emphasized my interest, are these two:

The autopsy notes, conveyed to the Secret Service, in part described as in Dr. Humes' hands when he testified, and of which other proofs are in my possession. These were made, did exist, and I sent you a copy of the memo with which they were forwarded and receipted by your agency.

The statements obtained by Secret Service agents from the Parkland medical people, referred to in GDSV. My last request, of the Archives, for these, dated November 18 of last year, is without answer.

I remind you again that I have not received from the Archives that which you told me you had given them to be given to me. They have not, in fact, even written me that you forwarded these things. I remind you again that this manner of delivery is not prescribed by or required by the law and does not meet with my request, especially when not accompanied with the covering letters. It would be helpful if I had these covering letters.

If you believe another meeting could serve a useful purpose, please let me know. As matters now rest, my options are more limited than they need to be than I prefer.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

5/22/70

Mr. Thomas J. Kalley, Asst. Dir.
U.S. Secret Service
1200 G. St., NW, #B45
Washington, D.C. 20526

Dear Mr. Kalley,

Again I note and thank you for the promptness and completeness of that part of your letter of May 19 which is responsive, as I also note with regret the lack of other responses. I hope that in the future you will not look back on them, as I fear you will, with sorrow and sadness. Whether you now believe me or not, I think the near future will establish that at least in part I sought to look out for interests other than my own or that of my work.

Because you have not seen fit to accept my repeated offers to tell and show you things and their meanings, subject only to your keeping them in strict confidence - and this is something over which I do not chide you, for you and your associates are, I realize, not autonomous - I necessarily inhibit myself, giving you only generalities I think you should have in your own interest, that of your agency and that of Kellerman and Greer.

There were, beyond any question of any kind, negative X-rays. By any of the contradictory accounts, all official, the same is true of the pictures. With the X-rays, I can give you a pretty close description of what is missing. Without knowing what is shown in these pictures covered in the Kellerman receipts, I cannot make the same promise. Were I to know it, I think I could with a high degree of certainty. If you have such records and you feel you can properly let me have them, I would welcome them and, should you so desire, report my conclusions to you. However, with the mess that has developed and shows no signs of amicable resolution, I would not encourage you to do this, if you decide to, through the Archives. I have the additional reason that they are going out of their way to make what I produce accessible to others, including those I regard as constitutionally irresponsible, and I do, very much, fear the uses of sensationalism alone to which such records can readily lend themselves. I am not taking the liberty of suggesting you do not send to the Archives what you believe should be there. Furthermore, while I would like such information for my own understanding, records and writing, I tell you quite frankly I do not regard them as now essential for these purposes, so I make no issue of them. I do not plan to include them in any planned suit. At the same time, I would encourage you to consider whether, should such a suit get into court, such records or testimony would be genuine.

I respond in haste in what I regard as your interest. If, on further study, I consider further correspondence is necessary, I will write you about this further. Here I note the absence of any explanation of how what film came to be described as exposed but showing no image. I hope you will also note that I am not pressing you on the other unanswered questions I have asked.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Confidential

5/23/70

Mary, Paul, Gary only

The knowledge to be reported below is still incomplete, which is only one of the reasons I desire no further distribution. I will be communicating it to Bud also, for legal reasons. You are aware of my continuing efforts to learn what is still missing, but with my supply of 3M paper about exhausted and Bud's supplier on strike, it is not now possible to copy the letter for you.

The X-rays were never out of Secret Service possession until they turned them over under the memo of transfer, 4/65. Despite all the contrary indications and false claims, as I have known for a while and in part disclosed by information Paul picked up in 1966, were shown the Commission staff. In judging for myself how effect can best be expended, I haven't tried to learn the exact date. I am willing to presume it was in pursuance of Specter's efforts, recorded in POST MORTEM.

There was a time when the pictures were out of Secret Service possession, but never until transfer were they out of its custody. They were processed at the Navy photo lab on or about 12/27/70, with a Secret Service agent, who carried them to the lab, present all the time. This was merely processing for the black and white negatives, which were printed by the SS a few days later. However, that time the color negatives were both developed and printed. At all time there were all kept in a combination safe in the Secret Service part of the Executive Office Bldg., which is the old State, War and Navy Building of Civil War vintage. Two people only knew the combination.

The color film printed as positive film, which means there were no paper pictures, as we know they from normal photography, like the color film that is used for slides. So, they were printed in enlarged form by the Navy lab on or about 12/9/63, the same agent transporting, and all were again returned to the same safe.

You know what more I seek and how, including whether the FBI had any knowledge, as it now appears they had no physical possession or copies. With Hoover in charge of the investigation, it is a very strange circumstance to me that he did not immediately get copies of this best evidence, as he could have. I suggest it means only that he knew he'd best not have them.

I also suggest this means the staff of the Commission had an identical concept, for they could have seen the pictures also if they'd dared. You may recall that there came a time when Warren ordered that certain of the X-rays be examined, with a shrink as their expert. The display to the staff may have been a consequence of this decision.

Despite the written assurances I have, as my letter discloses only in general terms, there is no question that more pictures exist than are accounted for, and I am talking about negatives, more than I did in Pt. 2 of WWII, which discusses the greater number of prints than of negatives. There likewise is no doubt that more X-rays were taken than were given to Kellerman.

The discrepancies are very real. Whether or not innocent I cannot yet say, for I do not know.

BT

4/15/70

Mr. Tom Kelley, Asst. Director
U.S. Secret Service
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

This letter requires no response unless you prefer to make one.

When I mentioned what Sherman Skolnick is up to, the day after he filed his "suit", which is entirely spurious (I have a copy of it), you laughed and passed it off as no more than part of what you described as the unfortunate Golden matter.

I have my own interests in it, so, to the limited degree possible for me, I have been gathering what information I can about it and him. I think much more is involved, and I am now unwilling to assume there is nothing here but a publicity-graver off on an ego trip.

While I do not suggest your interests and mine coincide exactly, I have the notion we have areas of common interest. I take what I recognize is a liberty in suggesting to you that you might be well advised in collecting what I thus far have not been able to get. What I have, if it interests you, is available to you. Among the things I have not been able to get that I hope to ultimately and I think may be worth your having are his original and apparently rehearsed broadcast on WRSV, Skokie, Ill., taped earlier that night and broadcast about 11 p.m. CST. Their phone is 312/677-5900. Ed Lucht is manager. The man who aired the show is named Kebab. He told me the tape disappeared, immediately and mysteriously. Lucht has not replied to my written request for a dub of the tape or to serious charges I made. WCFL, although they now deny it, worked with Skolnick in preparing his "suit". A reporter named Pahn did beginning at least two weeks prior to filing. He participated in some of their Golden interviews. He thinks all, but this is not the case. (I believe here Golden may also be a victim.) WCFL aired their "scoop" before the suit was filed, which makes them, in a way, more vulnerable. They first promised me tapes, then said I'd have to ask in writing, and then my properly addressed letter was returned marked "address unknown", which is a grim joke.

My own interest in the Vallee matter is known to you. The only additional information I want for my completed writing is what I had already asked of you. I do hope you can supply it soon, for I may feel I'll have to make some kind of response to these wild and awful things that are getting extensive attention in that area. For example, the Daily Calumet had a very large and very black front-page banner headline on the front page 4/7/70, on a story that among other things charges the Secret Service with being part of a conspiracy to kill the President.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

But, Paul, Gary

April 22, 1970

Mr. Thomas J. Kelley
Assistant Director, Protective Intelligence
United States Secret Service
Washington, D. C.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr. Kelley:

I have today received two of the items you sent to the Archives for me. There would appear to be serious discrepancies of a nature that can be scandalous beyond belief.

If you do not wish to be informed of this, I will make no use thereof in any form. If you would like to be informed, I will do so in detail; but in return I will ask you to maintain this in confidence.

Should you desire the presence of the other gentlemen who were at our meeting, that, of course, is fine subject to the same single reservation specified above.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

~~SECRET~~ 4/7/70

Dear Paul and Gary only,

Let me get the unpleasant over with to begin with. By now you have had inklings of Skolnick. The suit is spurious and will do us as much good as N.O. As of today Skolnick had not made a single request of the Archives! I was there. I did ask. He has never asked anything of them. Period. He stole this from COUP. Whether he added anything I do not know but I do know it is nothing of consequence from the news accounts. He was in touch with Bud last week and also told Bud he was coming to see me last weekend. This is not the first such false report, his way of trading on my name with my contacts. The suit is bound to be thrown out the minute it is called up. We sure need that! Moreover, if the stuff Bolden talks about exists, it was never given to the Archives, so on this added count they cannot be sued. The Secret Service, as I believe I told you, gave them nothing on Valle on the ground it was, as they saw it, irrelevant. So much for Valle's resemblance to Oswald, too.

Again I suggest this should tell you why I am sometimes concerned about letting people who really make only noises and do nothing see anything that can, in any way, be misused.

Today I learned that Kelley did give the Archives what he agreed to in my presence. Whatever else he gave them, of the other things I took up, I do not know. But Johnson confirmed to me that they have it. When I asked why it had not been given to me he said that GSA was reviewing it to see if it should be made available. Now I want NO talk about this, but it DOES include the memo of transfer. I also spoke to Kelley and he seems somewhat less than happy about the matter.

I supervised the rephotographing of the base of CE 399 with millimeter scales at right angles. You are aware of my other interests and suspicions. This took some doing, but it was finally done. They still have not come up with either the picture they took for me, if their claim to have taken it for Nichols is serious, or the one they took for him.

I also got a good look at the shirt picture they do not allow to be copied. It is similar to but not identical with FBI 60. Arth made it, allegedly to show researchers instead of the shirt. To now they have refused me a copy of it. They offered me FBI 60. I said fine, if it is not reproduced from the FBI book, if it has no photoengraving screen. ^{his} ~~his~~ they say they do not have. In short, they do not have the FBI's picture whereas the AG himself ordered it there. Moreover, FBI 60 is cropped. Johnson said they'd write me when I again asked for it. I told him to crop it, giving me only the part of the shirt showing the tabs and damage. That picture has a ruler in it. As posed, the entire distance between the tabs is two inches. It also seems to show a cut on the left collar, but Johnson says he is sure that is a crease. Now, these cuts are not only not identical, they are neither the same shape nor the same length, nor are they even in the same plane. On any one of these counts the possibility of a bullet causing it is eliminated. The one on the right side is much larger and wider and has a twist or bend at the top. The cuts are not in the collar but in the shirt body.

Because I had to remain with the photog until the negatives were developed, I had very little time left. In it I could but glance at the staff memos file of the inventory of which I have sent you copies and a memo. There are ~~33~~ 30-35 pages and from the glance I decided to get all of it, for there are repeated references to LBO as an Agent, and you know my interest here. I'll let you have whatever you want when I get it. Some is from other files. I recall repetition of PC6. I also ordered without examination Liebeler's last-minute changes in the ~~idic~~ part of the Report. Gotts wash the gunk from the EEG out of my hair. Hurriedly,

3/31/70

CONFIDENTIAL

Bud, Gary, Paul,

When I was in DC today I phoned Tom Kelley because I have not received what I was promised. Today is the end of the fourth week since our meeting.

He was in conference with Rowley and it was not possible for me to call him back because by the time I was free he was going to be out of town. I therefore left the message for him that I had received nothing and heard nothing from the Archives and asked that the film accounting only be sent me directly so I could study it. I also asked that he be told of what I regard as an entirely unnecessary delay.

His secretary told me that he had written the Archives the day after our meeting. If anything held it up, that would have been for not more than one day. So, the Archives has been sitting on this for not less than three weeks.

Sitting may not be the most appropriate description. They may feel they have other urgencies of a character not ordinarily considered an essential to what is generally understood as pure scholarship.

Paul and Gary: Bud is copying the inventory of which I wrote you. When this has been done he will mail it directly to you, for which we all thank him. If you have any comments to add to those I have sent you, please do.

HW