

4/13/70

Paul and Gary only,

I think I forgot to tell you (re enclosed letter to Skolnick), that the attachments to his suit are, beyond any question, identical copies of those in COUP, validating what Trunzo told me, that he gave it to Skolnick having been led to believe Skolnick's purpose was to carry the investigation forward.

Wish I could copy the "suit" for you, but if I get the better copy I hope for, I'll lend that for copying, if you are interested. As a case study, you'll want it, I believe, for it is a new record - record low, that is.

He even alleges the papers on the purchase of the rifle are suppressed! So, he could not have read WR (220), where they are in facsimile, or Ch IV!

Oh, we have such "friends", do we need enemies?

I didn't make enough copies of the letter to S, so if Gary wants a copy, would you please lend this to him so he can make it, make it for him, or, if you do not want it, give it to him? Thanks, Paul. I'll write more shortly.

HW

Paul, El

4/13/70

Mr. Sherman Skolnick  
9800 S. Oglesby Ave.,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Skolnick,

When you phoned me last week you complained that I had not been in touch with you. If I was not sufficiently lucid on the phone, let me make the reason clear: when it was so obvious, so completely beyond question that the best I could then think of you is that you are a crook, why should I have?

Since then, I have obtained an copy of (excuse the expression) the "suit" you filed. It will be no comfort to you when I tell you there are tell-tale identifications on the documents. There is absolutely no doubt. So much for your pretense to me that you had students get these from the Archives-explicit in what you told members of the press.

With this self-portrait, on which I have, whether you realize it or are willing to credit it, put the least unkind interpretation, it is a certainty that appealing to any decent motive or spirit would be a fatality, for there is no such motive or purpose in you or what you have done. For the sake of the cheapest kind of self-publicity you are willing to ruin the efforts of selfless people who have worked hard to bring the truth and the fact out, and you are willing to be tossed out of court with less ceremony than possibly any other case in history for this narrow, selfish purpose. Believe me, this is inevitable, for your imaginings are so wrong some of what you allege is suppressed is actually published in facsimile by the Commission and was, rather than suppressed, central to the government's case. Thus I know you haven't even read the Warren Report. I spare you the rest of a super-abundance of crow's meat that awaits you.

Your choices are few. You can let this thing come up and get clobbered in a way from which your reputation will never recover or you can find some excuse for withdrawing the suit (to which I suspect the government will object, for they will want to use you for headlines "No Suppression" or "Warren Report Validated"). It is not possible to amend it to make it viable, the error is so permeating, so total. I refer here to both fact and law. Perhaps they might permit a plea suggesting correction of error, if your ego can permit such a concession. I am no lawyer, so I cannot counsel you.

Be under no misapprehension. My concern is not for your reputation. It is for the incalculable harm any legal determination on this witch's brew of theft, irresponsibility and the wildest imaginings will make inevitable. If there is any court action on this, you'd be well advised to have a chastity belt for your throat. And what the government does to your reputation may, in the end, not be the worst than can befall your "reputation". If you pray, then pray that if in some remote contingency this ever gets into court the government is not smart enough to subpoena me as a witness, for ~~to~~ their knowledge, everything you allege is suppressed in the Archives I have-and it was never suppressed, as it is never "released". Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg