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Harold Weisberg
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9.6.97

Dear Wayne,

If Ann Louise Sardach would like to write about the JFK assassination I'll help in any way I can

As I indicated when we spoke, I believe that for a number of reasons dealing with some of the unprecedented scandals is the best way to do what can be accepted now. And can give the editors fewer disagreements and arguments.

Of course it would be a good idea for the people to see a good story dealing with the evidence. But among the problems with that is what is the evidence? Not in fact but in all the corrupted minds, including those at the magazine. Also a factor in this is the existing strong beliefs that usually have no basis in fact. But that does not keep them from beingx clung to. With passion.

The x two scandals that come to mind that ought really be shocking are the destruction of the record that was to have been made of all Commission executive sessions by preventing it being made to begin with and with that blocking the disagreement with what is basic in the official "solution" from being included- even though the leader in that, Senator Richard Russell, was of the belief that it would be incorporated by agreement. He and Cooper and from what Russell told me also but to a lesser degree, Loggs would not agree to the single bullet fabrication that is not even a theory. Without that the Report could not have concluded there had been no conspiracy.

I have all the documentations needed and I think more than would be used on this, including the court reporter's records of assigning people to take the sessions down, with the Commission's own records on that; Russell's written refusal to agree with that concoction; Cooper's, too; plus an oral history made for the Russell archive by Cooper.

Then there is the destruction of the autopsy report as soon as the chief prosecutor knew that Oswald had been killed and there would be no trial. Shocking at it may seem, this was "accepted and approved" by the President's own physician in records the Commission hid, literally hid rather than publish, which I found and used, which few people know. This is supposed to be a subject of interest to the current Assassination Records Review Board. They have deposed the prosecutors and are keeping the transcripts secret. The chief prosecutor testified to the House assassins committee that what he destroyed was his notes. That in itself is horrendous but it is also false. I have receipts for those notes, to him and to his hospital and from the Secret Service and the President's physician. More that bears on this. All documented more than enough.

If it had been an unknown whose body was unclaimed, a bum, the destruction of any records of the autopsy is forbidden. But not for a President.

Not when the assassination of any President is a de facto coup d'etat.

Orders were given by not the family but by the head of the Navy installation at Bethesda, where the autopsy was performed, not to do what was necessary. I have that documented, too, and under oath.

LBJ agreed with Russell in refusing to agree with that single-bullet fiction but he nonetheless praised the report of his Commission that is based on it.

Russell forced an executive session on September 18, 1964. By Commission agreement all those sessions were to be recorded and the records preserved for history. Rankin saw to it that there was no court reporter there. Russell saw a woman taking it down so he believed it was recorded. (The same thing happened January 24 when they had the Texas Court of Inquiry people up to tell them about reports that Oswald had worked for a spookery, as two of them told me, but there was no reporter there and there is no transcript of that session, either.) The fixer who screwed them was in the news recently with what was disclosed of J. Lee Rankin's records. He was John J. McCloy. Rankin had him on both sides of that single-bullet business. (I'd like very much to see what the Archives has on that but it would be better if someone else asked for it. Will you, please? And under the law you get the first ~~six~~ 100 pages at no charge.)

I have the tape of the Johnson-Russell phone conversation the day of that executive session and from Russell's files the carbon copies of what he prepared and told his fellow commissioners.

I also have the official transcript of the press conference of the Dallas doctors as soon as they cleaned up. It was not covered by TV. So Arlen Specter told the Commission they had tried hard and could not get it from TV! But the White House taped it and disclosed it and I have that, with the doctors saying three times that the President was shot from the front, each of the three times confirmed by the chief of neurosurgery.

There is no bullet hole in the first of the President's shirt collar or tie. I have an FBI picture it did not give the Commission of the collar. I also have an FBI picture of the tie that not only shows no bullet hole, the FBI also used all its skills in an effort to hide it, obscuring even the pattern of the tie.

There is an abundance of scandal and there is less likelihood of even an effort to dispute or contradict it. There will be arguments about the evidence. If an article on the scandals goes well there is less likelihood, I think, of any dispute of the actual evidence. Most of what is believed to be the evidence isn't. It is what those who think they are Gerry Mason and are not make up and call

the the evidence.

Even the certificate of death was hidden, not used in the report or those 26 volumes. it disproves the official "solution." I found it and used it in Post Mortem. The autopsy body chart the assistant prosecutor said he'd have been more careful with if he'd known it was important was in fact required by the Navy and he not only knew its importance, what he says was a careless error is confirmed by both the certificate of death and on the original, by the President's own physician. As it is by an autopsy picture I have and if that is included in the sketches made of the House assassins it would be in that. My picture is a copy of one stolen by the Secret Service photographer who was used to print the black-and-whites and who had the color pictures done by the Navy lab. He made a set of the black-and-whites for himself, when he printed them. He is dead. His name was Fox.

^{This} This just came to mind. Please excuse me for not taking the time to think it through and organize it. I think it has a better chance of being acceptable in the assassination climate and of being important and not being disputed, the latter not an inconsiderable factor.

And unlike the think pieces by the would-be Sherlocks it can be documented thoroughly, with pictures, too.

There were some pictures of the shirt and tie taken for me by court order but I was denied copies by official litig. Burke Marshall, for the estate, can get them disclosed to the magazine. And if he refuses to, that is another scandal. They are not pictures of gore. That did not interest me. They are pictures I wanted for evidence.

If you had a hunch that perhaps the time has come when a major magazine will consider a responsible article, I think you may be right. But more like that Summers piece of years ago, that I refused to be part of, will only deceive and mislead the people more and will get some kickbacks.

We've gotten more than 20,000 letters from strangers and most of them thank me for sticking to the official fact and doing no theorizing.

There is a professor of law when the Russell archive is who has written as I suggest above for his local papers who I think might help Ann Louise by getting things for her from that archive, at Athens. I enclose a copy of a letter from him.

Before long I should have a copy of my second epilogue to Waketh the Watchman. Some of it should scare the hell out of you.

Thanks for calling,

Harold Weisberg

I forgot the scandal with which ~~to~~ begin NEVER AGAIN! Almost nobody saw that book. Carroll & Graf, to the best of my knowledge, did not give out a single review copy and I have letters of their refusing orders! Why they did it I do not know. I mean published it. But I have the documents they did not use that prove there was the official decision, as soon as Oswald was killed and they knew there would be no trial, to identify him as the lone assassin. LBJ was in on it, but it did not originate with him. ~~One~~ the record it originated with Katzenbach but I think he may have gotten the idea from Dean Rostow. The idea for the Commission that K. gave LBJ via Bill Moyers was Rostow's. This, too, is documented, with documentation ranging from Secret Service records before Johnson could tape his calls to the holograph of the Katzenbach memo to LBJ via Moyers. And with transcripts of phone conversations ^{on 11/24/63} between Hoover and LBJ on this. LBJ had not yet moved into the oval office. But the Secret Service made records of his calls, and I have them.

There are so many details that can go with so much of this. Like with more than 350 "witnesses" the Commission never took testimony from the President's doctor, Admiral Burkley, the only doctor in both the Dallas emergency room and the Bethesda autopsy room. ^{Committee} r from the commander of that Navy installation at Bethesda. But then the House assassins also did not take testimony from the commander, Admiral Galloway. ~~was~~ Who was close by. Lived in Annapolis. They spoke to him by phone and I have their memo on that.

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The University of Georgia

School of Law

June 23, 1995

Mr. Harold Weisberg
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Dear Mr. Weisberg,

I have just finished reading your latest book on the JFK assassination, Case Closed.

Enclosed please find copies of my three most recent articles on the assassination.

Please keep up the good work, and remember that there are millions of Americans who have had their eyes opened because of your important work.

Very truly yours,

Donald E. Wilkes, Jr.
Professor of Law
706-542-5179

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Enclosures