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HAROLD WEISBERG DISCUSSES KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

JERRY WILLIAMS: "Today we'll be putting you in contact with Harold Weisberg, author of "Whitewash," one of the several books surrounding the mysteries of the Kennedy assassination. He has researched recently the information that has been released to the Archives in Washington, and he feels it's a bunch of junk. We'll be talking to Harold Weisberg in New York State in just a few moments."

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WILLIAMS: "Now we're in contact with Harold Weisberg. Hello, Harold, how are you?"

WEISBERG: "Fine, thank you, how are you this evening?"

WILLIAMS: "Fine. This afternoon, where are you?"

WEISBERG: "It's dark here."

WILLIAMS: "Where are we talking to you from?"

WEISBERG: "I am at my farm at Hyattstown, Maryland, that's about thirty-two miles northwest of Washington near Frederick, right in the foothills of the Blue Ridge, and it's where all the nice people who heard me on your station on writing to me to get copies of my book."

WILLIAMS: "Well a great many people have asked me where to get "Whitewash," what it's all about, why it's in paperback form, why it isn't generally distributed, and again, there seems to be a conspiracy theory running around Harold Weisberg's book "Whitewash," why it's not generally available."

WEISBERG: "It's not a conspiracy. Let me be fair to people who don't justify my treating them fairly. My book was the first, and it was done in February, 1965. I printed a limited edition just to protect my rights in August of 1965, it was the first book printed on the Report. It went into general distribution when I just gave the publishers up as a bunch of cowards, on May ninth of this year, so even -- it was still the first in general distribution, too."

639 lines

51.12

"Now because I -- from about Ju -- July of last year until May -- ah -- April of this year, there was always the publisher breathing hot, he said, 'Oh, you got a best-seller and I'm gonna do it.' But he always found some reason not to, and finally I just said the devil with it, and I went ahead and did it myself. And because we had no dough, the research put us in debt, a very wonderful firm, Merkel Press, did it on credit. They checked up at my bank and they found out that I don't have two heads, and I am an honest man even if I had no dough, and they went ahead and did it on credit. They were wonderful people. This is the real -- this is the real old tradition of the American printer.

"And I had to improvise distribution, so I've got no public relations fund to travel around with, and I keep working, I write letters when I can, I use the telephone when I can pay the bill, and I do have wholesalers, but I just haven't had any in the Chicago area until recently. I just had my -- I suppose after my first broadcast with you, I have you to thank for that, the Chicago wholesalers are getting interested. But meanwhile, an awful lot of our sale has been from people just writing to me, simply at Hyattstown, Maryland, they put five bucks in an envelope and I put "Whitewash" in an envelope and mail it back.

"The thing that confuses people is that we -- there could be such a remote part of the country yet so close to a metropolitan area. Our total address is Hyattstown, we get our mail at the country store. The telephone we're calling on I share with seven other people."

WILLIAMS: "Well Harold, let's get to the meat of this, because this program runs along so swiftly before it begins it's over. Now, for those of you who have not met you before, who don't know the book, the general theme of the book is simply the Warren Report and the Warren Commission findings are incomplete and leave a great deal to be desired. Which -- yes, go ahead."

WEISBERG: "I'll paraphrase the conclusions of the book, and this is one book that did have conclusions. I say the expected job has not been done and must be, entirely in public, and preferably by Congress. And I have reasons for saying these things. First, I destroyed the report with the Commission's own evidence. I used nothing else. Second, it must be done entirely in public, because the press -- and above all, in the context of the Warren Report.

"You and people like you and programs like yours are the important part of the press, because you have picked up the torch the others have dropped. It must be done in public, because there must be some check, there must be some balance.

"The reason I say preferably by Congress is because there must be punitive power, suppose there's perjury. And there must be the power to compel testimony. Suppose people don't want to talk. So this is what -- this is what "Whitewash" says, this is what it demands."

WILLIAMS: "Now just recently under, I suppose, pressure from all the things that have been written about the Warren Report, the President of the United States released information that Mark Lane and yourself, Penn Jones, Leo Sauvage and others who have written books about the Warren Report and about the assassination have been complaining that the information is being withheld. Now recently the President said very clearly that he was going to release a great deal more information to the National Archives to make sure that there was no mystery, no conspiracy, and that everybody would have the facts surrounding the -- ah -- the -- business that was being withheld at this point. So, have you researched that?"

WEISBERG: "Indeed I have, and it's another three dollar bill. If you think that the national heritage is -- is at all enhanced with the addition of an unused subscription blank to Life Magazine on Marina Oswald's sewing basket, then this is what's been done. Now I have in front of me, and I got it for this purpose, the official order by the Department of Justice as it's printed in the Federal Register, the government's official publication for all of these official notices. It's dated October 31st and is signed by Ramsey Clark, acting attorney general.

"He begins by saying, 'Under the authority vested in me by the act of November second, 1965,' this is the law, 'I have determined that the national interest requires the entire body of evidence considered by the President's Committee on the Assassination,' and so forth, 'Now in the possession of the United States, to be preserved intact. And accordingly,' he says, 'it's all going to the archives.'

"Now would you like to know what this is that -- some of these items that are -- are so important that we have been lead to believe. Now everything is -- all the documents are available, everything is..."

WILLIAMS: "Well I do know this much, Harold, that the rifle was released, was it not?"

WEISBERG: "No, it was not released. The rifle was moved from the west side of Ninth Street, N.W. in Washington to the east side. From the Department of Justice across the street, to the National Archives."

WILLIAMS: "Well isn't -- isn't the rifle important?"

WEISBERG: "The rifle is important in a lot of ways, yes. And the President's clothes is included, and that's important, too. There are a few items like this, but let me tell you, Jerry, that there are seven pages of fine print, each with three columns, and it is the most awful collection of trash, trivia and junk you can imagine."

WILLIAMS: "Well trash, trivia and junk you may call it, but in terms of its value to the entire scene it is part and parcel of what happened on that ugly day, is it not?"

WEISBERG: "Let me -- let me give you -- let me give you some examples of these. The numbers that I give are the F.B.I. exhibit numbers. The third item on -- the second item on the list is exhibits 44 through 64, 'Postcards,' that's the entire description, 'Postcards.' 65 -- 66, 'Eighteen Christmas Cards, five envelopes, five folded note papers with flowered border.' Item 68, 'Christmas card from Mother.' 77, Hammett World Atlas. 88, copy of pocketbook entitled '1984' by George Orwell. 107, 'No Admittance sign.' 178, 'Birth certificate for Audrey Marina Rachel Oswald.' 186, 'Booklet which appeared to contain embroidery patterns.' 168 is Oswald's N.C.O. pass to get him into the Mess. 191, 'Magazine wrapper.' Just unbelievable.' 199, 'Note paper bearing name Paul Gregory, Norman, Oklahoma.' 200, 'Subscription coupon, Life Magazine.'"

WILLIAMS: "You think that this information, the items that you've mentioned is absolutely worthless to any serious student of what happened on that day. Now, will you wait just a moment please. Harold Weisberg, author of "Whitewash," now our guest, in New York State, and if you have any questions we'll put you in contact with him."

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WILLIAMS: "This is Jerry Williams, with Harold Weisberg, in New York State. Harold, still there?"

WEISBERG: "Yes, I'm here."

WILLIAMS: "Okay, now I want to get back to questions I have in terms of just recent publicity. For instance, Jack Anderson, Drew Pearson, Washington Merry-Go-Round Column just the other day. 'Warren Report Hides Nothing.' Here's the Chicago Daily News, 'Discredit to Kennedy Memory. Warren Report Challenges Draw Blast From Jenner.' We're talking about Albert E. Jenner, the Chicago attorney, who, incidentally, debated Mark Lane on this program, on our night-time program several weeks ago. And I might add that I thought Mark Lane had the great advantage and so did many other people.

"However, another editorial today -- yesterday, I should say, the Chicago Daily News, 'Fraud On the Public. Three years after the event, the assassination of President Kennedy continues to hold a morbid fascination, not only for Americans, but for people around the world. In recent months, however, interest in this dark page of history has taken an ugly turn, a number of books, and at least one play, have been published, purporting to find fatal flaws in the work of the Warren Commission and attempting to revive the conspiracy theory.' This type of sensationalism is profitable, no doubt, but it is no service to the American people.' And it goes on to say the notion is wildly preposterous that so many people headed by some of the most responsible officials of the nation could act possibly in concert to conceal the truth even if they had tried. Somebody some way would have squealed. The only tenable conclusion is that there was no conspiracy, either to kill the President or to

conceal the truth, and the continued effort to keep the conspiracy theory alive by sniping at the work of the Warren Commission is a fraud on the American public. Now, Harold, your answer."

WEISBERG: "I'll give you a very specific answer, I'm not gonna talk in such generalities. Let the -- let the author of that editorial look on page 206 of "Whitewash" where I reproduced from page -- volume 19 -- I'm sorry, from Volume 18, Page 19. The Zapruder film is probably the most important single piece of evidence in the entire assassination, and as probably as most of your listeners know this was an amateur movie taken by Abraham Zapruder. It was a perfectly intact film. It was sold to Life Magazine and two copies were given to the Secret Service, one was flown out of Dallas that night at 9:55. The Commission says that the first point at which a bullet fired by Oswald from the sixth floor window could strike the President was the 210th frame. You know, motion pictures are a series of still pictures and they numbered them, the F.B.I. numbered them. You will find that the numbering and the frames go from 207 to 212. Totally missing are 208. 9. 10. the crucial one, and 11."

WILLIAMS: "Now what has that got to do with ~~it~~?"

WEISBERG: "Well they've doctored the evidence. They've eliminated the crucial frame of the film, it's not printed in their book."

WILLIAMS: "Well there's been some dispute as to whether or not they doctored the evidence. There's been some dispute as to whether or not this is the original film."

WEISBERG: "It isn't the original film."

WILLIAMS: "Well there's been some dispute about it. I mean, what you're saying is not indisputable, is it?"

WEISBERG: "It is entirely indisputable. I've addressed this question to the government and I get no answer." Now what they have done is very obvious, if you have a copy of the book just open it to page 206 and you'll find that the splice is of subamateur quality. You'll find the tree that the bottom of which has no top, and the top of the tree growing 20% to the right is growing in the air, it has no roots."

WILLIAMS: "Well many people are aware of the allegation by yourself and Mark Lane and others about the missing frames in the film. But, why do you think that just recently Pearson, Daily News and other well-known journals, New York Times, Washington Post, Merriman Smith, all of these people are now saying that the critics are just so much hogwash? Why all of a sudden? Do you think there's a conspiracy in the press as well?"

WEISBERG: "Merriman Smith is an outstanding example. Here is a man who won a Pulitzer Prize for his reporting of the assassination,

and he is the only man in the world who doesn't know where the assassination -- where he was when the assassination took place."

WILLIAMS: "Well -- he was in Dallas, wasn't he?"

WEISBERG: "He was in Dallas, and all you've got to do is read the story that was released on Sunday by U.P.I. and you'll find Merriman Smith doesn't know where he was. He says he was underneath the triple underpass when the shots rang out. He wasn't any such place, he was at least six cars back from there. And this is what you win Pulitzer prizes for, and this is the kind of responsibility that you find in the writing."

WILLIAMS: "Well you're still not answering the question as to why all of these respected journalists, respected newspapers, people who are certainly not trying to hide anything, are not again in consort with other people to -- to conceal the facts, I think that if one of the newspapers took it on to try to get at the facts that they would undoubtedly want to go after a story like this."

WEISBERG: "Why haven't they spent the kind of time I've spent on this?" What reason is there to believe that they even have the slightest idea that they know what they're talking about."

WILLIAMS: "Well what reason is there?"

WEISBERG: "They just won't do the amount of work that's required to dig out the truth. And there is absolutely -- you find no fact..."

WILLIAMS: "Harold, that's -- you know, that's literally impossible for me to believe. I can't believe that the New York Times, the St. Louis Post Dispatch, the Washington Post, all good newspapers, Look, Life, Time, all of these publications, would not want, really, to get at the facts."

WEISBERG: "Now the question of whether or not they want to get at it, it's a question of whether they're gonna put the kind of manpower on it that it requires. Do you think that I found out by accident that this film was doctored?"

WILLIAMS: "Do you think that Time-Life really con -- g -- g -- is worried about the manpower and time?"

WEISBERG: "Yes indeed. They haven't put the manpower on it. This takes a tremendous labor. That record of 26 volumes and six to ten million words is so loaded with junk, it's so cluttered with nonsense, it is so scientifically disorganized, that if they gave a degree in chaos at Harvard the man who did it would have been Magna Cum Laude."

WILLIAMS: "And there's no information, you feel, in the National Archives, that has just been released by the President of the United States of any value except the President's clothing? And the rifle?"

WEISBERG: "First of all, this is not a release, this is a transfer. There's been a -- there's a wide misunderstanding about that archive; a tremendous amount of material is available. I have just completed a new book based upon it. It -- I think it dates everything else that's written except my own book "Whitewash" from which it flows. And it tells a completely shocking story. I've been able to learn from the Archive exactly who did the whitewashing and exactly how they did it. With documents, with pictures, completely irrefutably documented."

WILLIAMS: "Harold, I'm going -- I'm going to break once again and then we're going to take some telephone calls from at home."

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WILLIAMS: "Hello."

WOMAN: "Hello?"

WILLIAMS: "Yes, speak up loud and clear please."

WOMAN: "Yes, I wanted to compliment Mr. Weisberg on his performance Friday night, I watched that very enthusiastically and I'm just wondering what we can do further investigations."

WILLIAMS: "Mr. Weisberg, what did you do on Friday night?"

WEISBERG: "Well this was a broadcast by television of a taped program that we recorded in New York..."

WILLIAMS: "What..."

WEISBERG: "...Lane and Penn Jones, and -- ah -- Leo Sauvage and I were opposed by the moderator Jim Bishop, who defends the Commission and Professor Cohen."

WILLIAMS: "All right."

WEISBERG: "And -- and we spent three hours discussing about a half dozen aspects of the report."

WILLIAMS: "Now this lady'd like to know as a private citizen what she can do in order to facilitate matters, in order to lodge a protest, if you will."

WEISBERG: "Well, there's an old traditional way, and people are inclined to laugh at the Twentieth Century, but they shouldn't. The thing that we have to do above all with this is to make our society function, our society fell apart in Dallas, it fell apart when Oswald was in the hands of the public authorities, it fell apart with the report and the tremendous compulsion not to speak and not to say. The thing that I would recommend above all for this lady to do is two things, well really three. First, that she inform herself, because our society works on an informed electorate."

"And Jerry, here's your importance, and the importance of your program and your station. Second, she should talk to other people and get them to learn for themselves, to read everything they can get, both sides.

"And third, having made up her mind, she should communicate her desires in the form of a demand to her legislators. This is the way our society works."

WILLIAMS: "Does that satisfy?"

WOMAN: "You know, I have done that, Mr. Williams, and I have written especially to the -- to members of the Kennedy family, because I can't believe that -- that they could be satisfied with -- with the results of the Warren Commission."

WILLIAMS: "Well there is a book coming out sometime in January or February that I'm waiting for. A book, evidently -- ah -- should I say certified, or -- what -- what's the proper word?"

WEISBERG: "May I comment?"

WILLIAMS: "What was that?"

WEISBERG: "May I -- I think I can help on this."

WILLIAMS: "Well I don't know whether it's certified, but at least Jacqueline Kennedy has put her -- put her stamp of approval upon the author. And there has been some information, I suppose, that has been deleted from the book on the advice of other people in the Kennedy family. Harold, do you have a comment on that?"

WEISBERG: "Yes, two comments. First of all I think that all of us, and I include myself, should try and understand the -- the very unhappy position of the Kennedy family. They're the ones who suffered the greatest tragedy. And -- ah -- I think it's not well understood, but it is a fact from the best information I could get, that as Attorney General the present Senator, because he never wanted any question to exist about was he vindicted, you know, he disassociated himself from the investigation. And he publically states that he has no -- never even questioned the official report, he's never read it. Now these are not the people to write to.

"Of course, one or two letters aren't going to do it, everybody must write. The people to write are all of the legislators who represent the various people who write.

"Now in the Manchester book, I -- I think this has the potential of another national scandal, and I'd like to try and put it into perspective. Mr. Manchester was selected to write the book, not to give the views of the Kennedy family at all. This is not his official statement...."

WILLIAMS: "No, I'm not saying that Mr. Manchester is giving

the views of the Kennedy family, I'm simply saying that Mr. Manchester was chosen by Mrs. Kennedy, and she approved of him as a writer, as a researcher, somebody that she could depend upon to write the truth. And she..."

WEISBERG: "Yes, because the President liked his previous writing very much, it was on this basis."

WILLIAMS: "Okay, I want to get on to other calls, and thank you very much. Mohawk 4-8660. Hello."

WOMAN: "Hello?"

WILLIAMS: "You're on the air now with Harold Weisberg."

WOMAN: "Yes, Mr. Weisberg. I didn't hear the conversation ahead of me, but I think from hearing it from the other room that it was about the Kennedy family, and that was my main question, how with all their influence and money and his influence as Attorney General could anything irregular happen?"

WILLIAMS: "Well, the lady -- in fact repeating the same thing the previous lady said -- saying, Harold, how would the Kennedy family just kind of stand aside if there really were any shenanigans involved?"

WEISBERG: "Well I can't really speak for them, and I don't really know what they're doing. I only know what I've been told. But I think that on the basis of what they know, these are disciplined people, they're members of the government in a way, and they trust their government. And it's -- it's a -- it's a horrible lacerating thing for them to get themselves involved in personally."

WILLIAMS: "We'll return to Harold Weisberg in just a moment."

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WILLIAMS: "Now let's return to Harold Weisberg in New York State and your next call. Hello?"

WOMAN: "Yes, Mr. Williams. First of all, I enjoy your programs very much. And I want to tell Mr. Weisberg that I agree with him one hundred percent, but there is a question I would like to ask. I would like to know if the Presidential motorcade at the day of the assassination was altered in any way, you know what I mean is, to go down one street they should have and then they went down another street instead and why?"

WEISBERG: "That's an open question. Let me begin first by, if you don't mind Jerry, I'm in Maryland, Hyattstown, Maryland. Now, the Commission is responsible, and the report, above all, is responsible for the misunderstanding that exists about the motorcade route. Because it undertakes to develop a line of argument rather than to establish facts."

"The Commission says that there is no question that the motorcade was supposed to go down Main Street, to turn to the right on Houston, and then to turn to the left on Elm. That knowing this in advance Oswald could be prepared, and was prepared, and hiding in the sixth floor window, because he knew the President's car was going to go right underneath that sixth floor window."

WOMAN: "Well..."

WEISBERG: "The truth of the matter is, that if Oswald depended on public sources, as obviously he must have, the best he could have known was that he couldn't know where the President's car was going to go, because both versions appeared in print. And in my book you'll find the map that I reproduced from the Dallas Morning News of that very morning, which shows that the motorcade was not going to go past the Book Depository by turning onto Elm Street, but was going to go straight on Main."

WOMAN: "Instead of where it did?"

WEISBERG: "Yes. But now this doesn't mean that this was the official plan, this means only that the newspaper said that."

WOMAN: "Yes, well -- that's been an argument here in my home with my husband, and he said it was altered and I said well I didn't remember reading about it, and when you were on that's why I called and wanted to check."

WEISBERG: "Well, I can't really answer the question, because the Commission makes it impossible. They don't address themselves to that. But the presumption is that what the motorcade did is what was planned."

WOMAN: "Yes. Well, Mr. Weisberg, I give you a lot of credit, and I'm with you one hundred percent on what you have said."

WEISBERG: "Thank you, that helps very much."

WILLIAMS: "Thank you for calling. Mohawk 4-8660, as we continue. Hello."

WOMAN: "Hello, Jerry."

WILLIAMS: "Yes, you're in contact with Harold Weisberg."

WOMAN: "Yes, Mr. Weisberg, I'd like to stick my two cents in on this deal, too. You know. As -- as you recall, when we were watching television, you know, right after the murder of Oswald, the master of ceremonies from Ruby's nightclub was on, and he said that he saw Tippit, you know, in the nightclub with Ruby and Oswald."

WEISBERG: "Yes."

WOMAN: "And that was squashed. We never heard any more from that. Do you recall that?"

WEISBERG: "They took some affidavits from him, and they finally decided that he was not a dependable witness."

WOMAN: "Oh."

WEISBERG: "And I don't know whether he is or is not a dependable witness, but this is the kind of thing I was talking about before when I said it must be entirely in public and must have punitive powers, because if a man perjures himself, let him know he's going to go to jail for doing it. Let him be out in the open where people can make up their minds, and especially the press can learn whether or not the man is being truthful."

WOMAN: "And another thing I'd like to ask you, Mr. Weisberg, is why was Tippit in this vicinity of Oswald's home right after the assassination, because he should have been, you know, where that was being held, instead of by his home, do you recall that?"

WEISBERG: "No. First of all there are two parts to that. The vicinity of Oswald's home. Now this could be a misreading of what I exposed for the first time in my book. The number of Tippit's car was Number Ten. Mrs. Erleen Roberts, who is now one of those who died rather unhappily..."

WOMAN: "They all have."

WEISBERG: "Let me answer -- let me answer the two parts. Saw a car with a number 106, and the Commission traced every -- every possible combination of 106 except ten. Now, as to the area in which Tippit's car was, the radio call of Tippit's car was 78, and he was actually ordered from his regular territory into the Oak Cliffs territory, again you'll find the exact language of the radio log in my book. The dispatcher told him '78, go to Central Oak Cliffs and be at large for any thing we need you for.'

"So he -- what they had done, there may be nothing sinister about this, or there may -- again, the Commission just didn't go into it. But with all the manpower of the Dallas Police taken to the motorcade and to where the President was going to be, they did have to improvise the police protection for the rest of the town. So whether or not this means anything we don't know, because the Commission didn't go into it."

WILLIAMS: "Well we have many other calls, I'm sorry to have to interrupt at this point, we'll get on to our next call with Harold Weisberg in Hyattstown, Maryland, in just a moment, at Mohawk 4-8660."

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WILLIAMS: "Now on to your next call at Mohawk 4-8660. Hello."

WOMAN: "Hello, Jerry?"

WILLIAMS: "Yes."

WOMAN: "Enjoy your programs immensely. Now, there was one question. I just got so interested since I've been listening to your program, and I just started to read the witnesses. I would like to ask Mr. Weisberg, I'm getting the impression that there was a difference in the sound of the shots, am I right or wrong?"

WEISBERG: "Yes. It was -- the difference was -- two respects. First, different people hear things differently. Some people thought it was firecrackers, and some thought it was shots. Second, it depended on where you were with respect to the shots. These two things account for it."

WOMAN: "Could there be a difference in the guns?"

WEISBERG: "Definitely."

WOMAN: "Definite." Now another thing I heard you say about the pictures, it seems to me -- I mean, at that time we were all so shocked, it seems to me at that time I saw pictures the first day in the pictures which I never saw again."

WEISBERG: "That's right."

WOMAN: "Do you think these newspapers could be censored?"

WEISBERG: "No."

WOMAN: "No."

WEISBERG: "No."

WOMAN: "There is nobody that would..."

WEISBERG: "I just don't think they spent the time to study this thing."

WOMAN: "I see. But am I right, there were different pictures which we never saw again."

WEISBERG: "This is true of some. What appeared in the papers available to you I don't know, but it doesn't mean that the newspapers don't have them."

WOMAN: "I see. Well thank you so much. I never got so interested as I have been lately, thanks to Jerry Williams."

WILLIAMS: "Thank you very much. Mohawk 4-8660, as we continue probing into the mysteries surrounding President Kennedy's assassination. Hello."

WOMAN: "Hello?"

WILLIAMS: "Yes, go ahead."

WOMAN: "A question for Mr. Weisberg. About this rifle that they were supposed to have found on the day of the assassination. Now, it was stated that it was a German-made Mauser, in the Sun-Times her in Chicago on the twenty-third, there was a statement in there saying that the gun had been found in the fifth floor in a stairwell, it was a German-made Mauser, it gave the caliber. The very following day there was another statement in the Sun-Times paper stating that the gun had been found on the sixth floor, and it was an Italian-made gun. Now, have you in your investigation, Mr. Weisberg, found out anything else about why a paper like the Sun-Times -- now Mr. Williams made his comments about the newspapers a few minutes ago -- why could they publish two different stories, two conflicting stories without investigating on their own to find out which one was the true story."

WEISBERG: "Well, they're in Chicago and this happened in Dallas. They used in good faith the information that was given to them. It was just that incorrect information was given out. Now on the very first day, there's a common misunderstanding about this, most people think that it wasn't until the second day that the rifle was identified as an Italian one. There were two different identifications given the first day."

WOMAN: "Yes, I read that in the book."

WEISBERG: "And I think there must be yet made an explanation by the government of the German Mauser business. They haven't answered it one bit."

WOMAN: "I know, I've read several of them so far, I'm right now reading Mr. Lane's book and -- I mean, there are questions galore, but no -- no answer at all about why there was -- the sheriff or the deputy or whoever it was identified the gun definitely as German-made Mauser and the caliber and everything."

WEISBERG: "Well I'd like to depart from my book for just one moment to tell you what I have heard, and I want your listeners to understand that this is only what I've been told and I can't vouch for it."

WOMAN: "Right."

WEISBERG: "But there a number of things that bear on it. The testimony of Officer Baker, who said a disturbance on the roof of the building attracted his attention. Penn Jones told me that he has been told that there was actually a German Mauser on the roof of that building. That's all I know about it."

WOMAN: "Well then this would account for Kennedy being shot without Oswald actually being involved."

WEISBERG: "Oh, yes, the best evidence is that Oswald couldn't have shot anybody."

WOMAN: "Right. All right, and another question..."

WILLIAMS: "Now I can't permit another question at this moment, we're running out of time. All right? Thank you very much. "

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WILLIAMS: "Let's continue with the calls now. Hello."

MAN: "Hello, Kerry Williams?"

WILLIAMS: "Yes, go ahead."

MAN: "Hello, I've got three questions I'd like to ask."

WILLIAMS: "Well, we -- we don't know if we have time for three, but pose them as quickly as you can."

MAN: "Okay. First of all I think using a cheap rifle like that and -- it was some kind of shooting using a scope. I don't believe this is possible."

WEISBERG: "I agree."

MAN: "Secondly, where did Oswald practice? Just like anything else, in order to do this type of shooting you'd have to practice fairly regularly."

WILLIAMS: "Harold, did you do any research as to when and where Oswald practiced?"

WEISBERG: "He never practiced. There was a very invest -- exhaustive investigation to try and find out. They dropped that when they couldn't find out that he ever did, they even dropped the inquiry into where he got the ammunition when they found that there was generally available a kind of ammunition that was inconsistent with what they wanted to say."

MAN: "Well it's rather amazing, isn't it?"

WEISBERG: "It is absolutely unbelievable. I go into this at some length in my book. This is a mechanical skill that requires constant practice."

MAN: "Right, now I've -- I've never heard no one ask this before, I'm kind of curious..."

WEISBERG: "They can't answer it. The best shots in the world couldn't duplicate that shooting with a still target and after they overhauled that rifle to make it work right."

MAN: "Right. Considering also it was a cheap gun. Now, the last question is Oswald's security when he got murdered. Now it seems to me be -- before I'd ever leave Oswald out where anybody could take

a shot at him I would have used sodium penathole to begin with to make sure that I could find out as much as possible whether he did this or not to make sure that we weren't wasting time. Now, I've never heard this stated whether this was used or not."

WEISBERG: "No, it was not. And Oswald kept on saying he wouldn't talk unless he had a lawyer and they kept on sweatin' him. They did it for twelve hours."

MAN: "I mean, considering the type of murder it was it seems like it should have been appropriate."

WEISBERG: "Well one thing that would have been a lot more appropriate and that would've been to have tape recorded there to take everything down, but they didn't do that either. No stenographer, no nothing."

MAN: "Yeah. Well that's about it. Thank you very much."

WILLIAMS: "Thank you very much. Harold, it seems today that every single call seems to agree, anyway, that something is missing in terms of the investigation of the assassination. You get that view?"

WEISBERG: "I get that all over: in person, in my mail, and my mail is very heavy, because I had to be my own publisher it's attracted a lot of attention. Even in the news media, those who get in touch with me are no longer antagonistic, because people have begun to realize, and this is what I set out to establish."

WILLIAMS: "At the same time, however, I see the movement in the press to discredit those who are again searching out what they feel is the truth."

WEISBERG: "Yes."

WILLIAMS: "And I wonder whether or not there's going to be any brea, quote, unquote, break, by any major publisher, major magazine, or somebody with great stature in the United States to continue this. Do you have any indication?"

WEISBERG: "Yes, I do. I'm not at liberty to reveal it, but I tell you that not later than the first of the year a major magazine is going to come out with some very important information." as

WILLIAMS: "I may also ask you where people could obtain the book. Is it still available in Chicago or is it not available?"

WEISBERG: "Yes, my book should now be available through most book stores because the wholesalers have it. But for those who can't get it in their bookstores if they just write me at Hyattstown, Maryland and send me five dollars I'll send the book by return mail."

WILLIAMS: "You're in Hyattstown, Maryland."

WEISBERG: "That's the total address, Hyattstown, Maryland."

WILLIAMS: "Let me ask you another question before we leave this afternoon. We're going to have you back again on the nighttime program on December the thirteenth. Are you prepared?"

WEISBERG: Yes, indeed. I hope Merriman Smith is there, but I bet he won't be."

WILLIAMS: "Well we'll hope to have Merriman Smith as well. Merriman Smith has, again, recently written an article in the Chicago Sun-Times again spreading rather thin information, I would say, surrounding -- I should say, over the critics of the -- of the Warren Report. My thanks to you again, Harold."

WEISBERG: "Thank you very much, I'm glad to have the opportunity and I'm glad to see your audience is so well-informed. You've been doing a good job."

WILLIAMS: "Well I think this is probably the sixth or seventh program we've done on the questions surrounding President Kennedy's assassination and we're going to continue doing them, because people want to know -- we've received literally thousands of pieces of mail surrounding the programs we've done so far. Thanks very much, Harold."

WEISBERG: "Thank you very much."

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

Chicago Report

WMAQ-TV

November 17, 1966 - 5:00 PM

Chicago

JENNER EXPLAINS POSITION OF BULLET HOLES

JOHN PALMER: "Chicago attorney Albert Jenner has denounced the recent series of books -- the books criticizing the findings of the Warren Commission as mischievous and irresponsible. Jenner, who was senior counsel for the commission during its investigation of the assassination of the late President Kennedy told reporter Charles McCuen that most of the books take a negative tone."

JENNER: "Now, on the affirmative side, when Lane and the others try to raise the possibility of someone else being involved, we know..."

MCCUEN: "Perhaps the bullet that struck -- possibly the bullet hit the President from the front?"

JENNER: "That's right. Now, you got me off on a side issue, but it's -- it's part of the case. Take your hand -- just raise your hand up. Now here's the President gesticulating to all these fine people who waited to see him. You see where the collar of your coat is? All right, put your hands down now. Now where's the collar go? Right down there? And if you stood up your coat would -- now what Epstein says is that he took the -- he measured on the President's coat, on his shirt and his undershirt, the holes. And by hanging that coat on a model he concluded that the -- that the hole evidenced the entry of the bullet in the President's back far below where the Commission says that bullet entered. What he overlooked was that when the President was gesticulating his coat goes up and naturally that -- the -- the -- hole in the jacket and the shirt and the undershirt did come right at the point where the bullet actually entered."