

Harold Weisberg, Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701

2/5/74

Dear Louis,

Yesterday I received a letter from my agent in London that, were I a normal man, would be very discouraging. As you may recall, I do not discourage easily and all the experiences of the past decade have not really discouraged me.

I had sent him a draft of an article coming from secret Warren Commission and other "Top Secret" records in my possession. Briefly, the late Senator Russell and I had a confidential relationship for some years. He did not believe the basic conclusions of the Report he signed, had made a deal with Warren and the others on which he was double-crossed after he signed the Report, and to his dying day he encouraged me to continue my investigation which he clearly understood were opposed to the official conclusion of the Commission of which he was a member. He continued to express regret including in writing that he could not find the time to pursue this further. Russell had forced a showdown on his doubts immediately before the presses rolled on the Report, which was then in page proof. He believed that in doing this he established a record in his own interest and for posterity. In this he was deceived, deliberately, as the spooks do it. I put this proof in his hands and shocked him. In all his extensive public life he had never dreamed anything like this would or could be done. Instead of the real record he had made there was a counterfeit. I have it plus dozens of pages of related proofs, all still stamped "Top Secret." You may remember my showing you other records that are shocking enough. There is nothing clandestine in how I obtained any.

Gordon Harbord, 01-235 7593, who has been a true friend and with my books really tried very hard for me, reports no interest there, "particularly after Watergate." From the attitude here and my previous experiences in England I do not doubt this for a minute. However, from my current mail, I also believe that as in the past, where you may recall your own great kindness with your own book publisher, the prevailing publisher attitude is not based on popular reaction. Rather do I believe that they would prefer to ignore all these sordid matters in the futile hope that if ignored they will all go away. My own view is that what I have been dealing with logically leads to not only The Watergate but to all the troubles in the world today.

It had been my hope that Gordon might be able to interest one of your more sensational and better-paying publications. I would, of course, prefer responsible publication and more responsible treatment. And I write for any help you may be able to give. I do believe the story is quite newsworthy and because of Watergate more than usually topical. It is really a Byzantine affair. And it can be attractively illuminated by countless records all bearing the "Top Secret" stamp.

My limitless optimism tells me that there might also be interest in mainland Europe but I am without the capability of exploring it. In a sense, because all this happened under the Democrats, there is an element of "fairness to Nixon" in it.

Whether or not your Sunday people would be interested in this and whether or not you can be of help to me, I think you might like to read the piece. Gordon has it.

Thanks for anything you may do.

Should you make a trip to the United States, you may be interested in seeing what I have that has been suppressed on The Watergate, including on CIA. (I am generally aware of the flap that began with your paper and your own comment on it. I also have what I still find to be amusing recollection of similar U.S. intelligence interest in domestic British affairs from my own experience in O.S.S.) It is an incredible story, even after all that has come out. The worst has not and I do not expect it to in the near future. I possess enough of it. Despite what you read, everyone is afraid, which accounts for my getting some of what I have. As an example of this fear and of the fact that there has been no real investigation, I cite your own page-one story on Hunt as a would-be assassin. I gave it to Ian, whose phone I used in his presence to also offer it to other, including the Post. It and nobody else would touch it.

cc:Gordon Harbord

Best regard and thanks,

Harold Weisberg