

June 17, 1968

Mr. Jesse Unruh  
Speaker of the Assembly  
Assembly Box 65  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, Calif. 95814

Dear Mr. Unruh:

Because I could not bear to reread my January 17 letter to you until today, I know it will be unpleasant for you. However, I believe you should reread it, give it the attention you feared when I wrote you. Had you, perhaps one of your remaining "valued friends" might be alive.

In that letter I reminded you the turned political back is like the turned back of the slave: It gets the lash. I compared your wisdom with that of the ostrich, saying you pretended what you refused to see was not there. And I asked you if the ghost had come from Denmark to spend the night with you. I predicted he would.

I called you "silent friend of silent brother". That brother, I believe because of these silences, is now permanently still. He is the mute accuser of all the silent "friends".

To show you how right I was, how clearly I saw, I quote from that letter:

...if you want to survive, you had best be the man you like to think yourself. If you are not, you and all like you will be cut down, one by one.

Who is next, silent friend of now-martyred silent brother?

Does the bell toll for you?

For those assassinated, it is now too late; for those not yet murdered, there may still be time if the muted tongues are heard.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Hal Pawe, Gary

October 13, 1968

Mr. Jesse M. Unruh  
Speaker of the Assembly  
Sacramento, California

Dear Mr. Unruh:

Yesterday's Washington Post published the enclosed story about the nature of your campaigning. It prompts me to write you again.

I expect and ask nothing of you. I am going to California again Monday, October 21, to remain there until election day, to speak and work. If there is any information you would like of me, I will give it to you. Otherwise, I will not trouble you.

If, when you had more time, you did not read my books, I certainly do not expect you to read them during the heat of a campaign. However, perhaps there is one whose judgment you trust you can get to read two short chapters, the Epilogue to WHITEWASH II and the Introduction to PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH. Perhaps they will give you an understanding of how you can safely use an issue you have feared.

My own rather extensive appearances in your state convince me a large majority of the people, including those of conservative persuasion, agree with me. I have appeared on the programs of conservatives as well as liberals and have had a chance to measure reaction. It is overwhelmingly as I represent it.

Aside from the four published books you have, I have three completed and unpublished manuscripts. I have, quite literally, thousands of pages of the suppressed documents, including countless examples of the suppression of evidence of the involvement of the most extreme of the radical right - including the support of your opposition. It is now too late, even if you wanted, to make adequate use of this, I will not have time to gather and bring the documents you might have wanted. However, in a relatively short time, perhaps an hour, perhaps less, I could brief you. I think there is a safe formula: The official investigation can no longer be accepted and there must be another, this time, entirely in public, with no secret or suppressed evidence, with no hearings of any kind to which the press and public are not admitted. This formula permits consideration of President Johnson as one of the victims.

Earl Warren's following need not be antagonized, for he, too, is one of the victims, having been spoon-fed a predigested pabulum. If you want to see how this can be handled, I will be doing call-in shows in San Francisco as soon as I get there (10/21-25). Have some of your people ask the questions to which you may want sample answers.

My arrangements are being made by California friends. I know them only generally. I will be in San Diego, with Dr. George Abbott, 4718 Saratoga Avenue, 10/27-29 or 30, The rest of the time in Los Angeles (Steve Burton,

Mr. Unruh - 2

4829 Morella Avenue). John Christian, I understand, is new in Los Angeles and may not know my San Francisco Schedule or accommodations. Harv Morgan, of KGO, whom you may know, probably will. Also at that station, Owen Spann should know how to reach me. I expect to do his and Jim Eason's shows there.

John Kennedy's friends failed him when he and the country needed them so much. It is an irony that, in death, he can help his former friends if they would but heed his inaugural injunction.

And, if it is too late for this election, let us hope there will be others.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg