

20734

June 1, 1966
"

Mr. Harold Verb
423A Fulton St.,
San Francisco, Calif. 94117

Dear Mr. Verb,

This is in hasty response to your well thought out letter of the 26th. Your book is already in the mail.

As I said in the book, with nothing to take to a court of law, the problem of doing anything is not a simple one. I acknowledge the disadvantages of Congressional handling. But I also thought of a commission of inquiry by prominent citizens. This has a number of immediately-apparent disadvantages. First, it cannot compel appearance and/or testimony. Next, it could have no punitive powers, such as for perjury, and there are clear inferences of both perjury and subornation of perjury in the book already. Also, could such an inquiry command the attention of the press that would be required for its success? It would depend entirely upon public opinion for its success. Without a press, it would have no public opinion.

There is another side to the participation of the Kennedy's. My information also is that the former Attorney General is not in any way and as Attorney General *did not* associate himself in any way with the investigation. Exactly because he is the brother of the murdered President would he be subject to criticism as biased. Less credence might have been placed in an investigation with which he was actively associated. I regret this, for I am confident that what happened would not have happened had he been in charge. But I think it unfair to fault him for this.

I have had another report that he is conducting his own private and quiet inquiry. I hope it is true but cannot confirm it. I would appreciate all you might be able to tell me of this, in as much detail as possible. It could be quite important, for since finishing the book I, too, have come across new and rather sensational data.

We have had more orders from California than from any other state, yet I have done no advertising and have done nothing to interest any Californians. I am quite anxious to arrange for commercial distribution on any scale. If you know any book stores or distributors, we are sending these on consignment at regular hard-back trade discounts. There is a famous bookstore in San Francisco, but I am not certain of the name. Is it Lawrence Ferlinghetti's? From what I've heard of this man, I think he might be interested. I'll ship the books in any quantities and however specified. The printer delivered them to me in packages of 40.

Thanks for your interest and anything you can do.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

May 26, 1966

923A Fulton St.
San Francisco, Cal.
94117

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I am enclosing a check ^{under separate cover} for your book entitled: "Whitewash-
the Rep^ort on the Warren Report". I have read a good deal of the
book already and am impressed by the scrupulousness with which you
have reached your conclusions. I came across your book when it was
loaned to me by Dave Lipton and I began reading it and found it ab-
sorbed my attention throughout. I will let you know more about my
impressions of the book after I have finished reading it but in the
meantime I do wish to comment on some of the statements you made in
the conclusion of your book that merit your consideration. (Please
refer to your statements beginning in the middle of page 189).

To begin with, let me say that like yourself I agree with your
conclusion that Oswald could not have assassinated the President in
the manner described by the Warren Commission and that all the evi-
dence points to two or more assassins that actually performed the
murder. I have no quarrel with you on that score.

But it is in your plea to conduct an investigation that would
be led by Congress that I have serious doubts. How can Congress ade-
quately discharge this responsibility when it is under the thumb of
Johnson and is privy to his dictums? Moreover, there are members in
Congress who are connected with the CIA and only a few members of
Congress know who they are. Since, undoubtedly, the CIA would come
up in any investigation by Congress, how could we be sure that
a Congressman on that investigating committee was not associated
with the CIA apart from the fact that he would not want to go against

the Johnson Administration? What I am saying is that any Congressman would be suspect. One could never be sure that he was really interested in getting to the bottom of the whole case even though he may appear on the surface to be going through the motions. Even now we see Senator Russell trying to block an investigation of the CIA and he was a member of the Warren Commission! Would you or anyone know whether any Congressman is under the thumb of the CIA? Does anyone except a handful of men know who these are even inside the government?

Congress had an excellent opportunity to carry out just such an investigation when Senator Robert Kennedy could have done so. He would have lent his great prestige and office as Senator from an important electoral state to such an investigation. But the fact is that he did not do so and moreover neither did his brother Ted who also has a vested interest in this case if only because it was his brother who was killed. Both, however, maintain a stony silence. Bobby, in fact, boasted that he had never read the report and didn't intend to. But privately he is conducting his own investigation and has gotten hold of information that directly contradicts the Warren Report without even raising so much as a stir about what he knows.

No, I am afraid that nothing will be done by such a Congressional investigation as much as I would like it to. It would only whitewash the mess further. What I think should be done is to build forces to force public opinion to exert pressure to have a body of experts named to a committee that would be made up of distinguished men and those people, like yourself, who have conducted an investigation could do what the Warren Commission failed to and a Congressional committee dared not to --that is finding out who really killed President Kennedy.

Sincerely,

Harold Verb