

10/21/66

Dear Mr. Washburn,

Your letter of the 17th is the kind that means much to us and has. What you have done is in the old, forgotten too often and honorable tradition of our country. It is not I alone who have helped, and for a ll those other for whom I am not authorized to speak and well as myself I do thank you.

With reference to the "talk" program, there is something I have been doing that makes exciting radio. I broadcast by phone, first talking to whoever runs the show, answering whatever que tions he choses to ask, and then replying to phoned-in ~~QUESTIONS~~ questions. If that station is interested, Joe Dolan, who I presume is still at KNEW, Oakland (formerly KEWB) is closest to Portelnd. There are others on the east coast. Dolan wrote me he thinks this was the most exciting thing he did. The initial five-ten minutes he asked me to speak lasted the entire program, two hours. Something similar happened several weeks ago with WHIO, Dayton, Ohio, who had been referred to me by the Jack McKinney show on WCAU, Phila., which has aired me about 20 hours, live and on tape. It is a clear-channel station. Its reaction and what I got were excellent.

There are several possible explanations for the press attention to the other books. Mine bears the curse of the first against which the poet warned us. It is also not done by a commercial publisher, and the internal pressures for such a book to fail are great (possibly the lack of advertising from a non-publisher also figures). Then there is the doctrine of the books. Mine alone does not ~~assault~~ assault the integrity of the members of the Commission, particularly Warren. A ~~careful~~ careful reading of the others, including those pretending otherwise, shows that they do. It is not unpopular to question Earl Warren's integrity, for example. While WHITEWASH is the strongest of the books by far, it also seeks by the evidence to show how the members of the Commission might have become persuaded to sign su dubious a document. The staff, including the FBI and Secret Service, really did the dirty work, spoon-feeding the members.

I am doing all the PR work I can, on radio, TV, with the newspapers, etc. Some of it has been remarkably effective. It is my book and I who opened up the subject and made it respectable, not, for example Epstein's, which presumes Oswald's guilt, belabors Warren, is the voice of the right-wing faction of the staff, and was written by a young man unwilling to be buffeted by incquisitions on the radio, etc. It is, in fact, an effort to sublimate WHITEWASH that launched INQUEST 32 days before its publication date. I have taken on everybody and anybody, driving and working around the clock to do it, including the redical right (Bill Buckley's right-hand man) and Victor Lasky simultaneously. They pooped out on me 3:40 ~~after~~ a.m., whereas the show was to run until five a.m., having commenced at midnight. This is what I have had to ^{do} do. That day I had arrisen at 4/a.m, driven to New York, tried to accomplish other things during the long day, and was so emotionally involved at the end of the show that I drove 250 miles and was home and working about 10 a.m. An individual undertaking what I have has no other choice.

Again, thanks, Let me know how many books you gave away and I'll replce them.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

I have sold all of the books. Let's hope they move off the shelves. Let me know when your next book is ready. I will try to find time to get it around to the outlets.

Enclosed is a report that I wrote and sent around. ~~It got~~ The book got a write up in the Portland Oregonian book review section.

I also got it mentioned on one of the most popular "talk" shows on the radio and in a gossip column in the Oregon Journal. It also went out in the ^{Fellowship} ~~Finals~~ of Reconciliation Bulletin which reaches 2000 people. This effort cost me a couple of books but we hope it will stimulate sales.

Iran across some old "New Republics" and have

read some of your articles. They make quite interesting reading.

One thing I don't understand is all of the publicity Sawage, Lane & Epstein are getting in the periodicals. Why don't they include you? They showed your book in the (shudder) U.S. News & World Report. But that was all. I don't think a little P.R. work on your part would be compromising and it would stimulate sales. However, I remember now you said that you were about as pressed for time as I am if not more so.

I would like to take some books down to the UoF Oregon and Oregon State U. book stores but I don't know when I would have time. Maybe it would be better to wait a while and see how they sell.

Most Respectfully
R. A. Washburn

Suppression of the book "Whitewash"

After reading in the New York Times newspaper June 5, 1966, of a book called "Whitewash-the report on the Warren Report" I attempted to get a copy of this book. After several attempts to obtain this book through the local bookstores the authors address was finally found and I wrote directly to him to get a copy. In the ensuing correspondence it was learned that this book had been turned down by 63 publishers in the United States and 11 publishers in 8 foreign countries during a 14 month period. There is further history of refusals by various newspaper and electronic media chains. Generally, the editors were enthusiastic about the book but the owners wouldn't have anything to do with it. Finally the author, Harold Weisberg, was able to borrow the money for a down payment to the printer and the first edition was published by his individual effort. This gamble was met with success as the book is now in its third printing with over 11,000 copies sold. This was accomplished despite the fact that book wholesalers completely ignored the flyers sent to them about the book and therefore no bookstores were notified of the book. Also, there was no money for any advertising. The book was sold by word of mouth.

About the contents of the book itself. It does not attempt to draw conclusions about why the Warren Commission chose to "prove" Lee Harvey Oswald perpetrated President Kennedys assassination single-handedly. What the author does do is exhaustively explore the Warren Commissions interpretation of the testimony and evidence that lead to the Commissions ultimate conclusions. This is done by exploring suppressed or discarded testimony and evidence that would,if accepted at face value, not support the "single assassin theory". The testimony and evidence that was accepted but distorted to support this "single assassin theory" also comes in for close scrutiny. The author reviews only the testimony and evidence the Warren Commission used. The entire book is exceptionally well documented and sticks completely to the facts.

Although there are several books and articles that are very well done this book must stand out as the publics "handbook of investigation" on the Warren Commission. , Possibly, this is the reason why this book couldn't be printed. Because it directly challenged the "establishments" credibility. Because the author was a former senate investigator for the

Senate Civil Liberties Subcommittee among others and as such has very credible credentials for this type of investigation.

All of the obstructions, delayals and mail tampering have not kept this fine book from the public. Private citizens have contributed time and money to this courageous mans effort to get the truth to the public.

Robert A. Washburn
2723 S.W. Miles St.
Portland, Ore. 97219