Harold Weisberg
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3/13/97

Mr. Brian Kelly
Outlook, deputy editor
Washington Post
1150 15 Sr., NW
Washington, DC 20071

Dear Mr. Kelly,

In your 3/3, not here until today, you say "I am not interested in... any evidence of who might" have killed King "other than Ray." This represents the preconception of that issue of Outlook and it misrepresents anything I have written, including in my letter to Mr. Downie.

So, I have no way of understanding what you mean in saying that "To date, I have seen little or no such evidence."

I'm almost 84 with much else on my mind and my memory is not what it was, but I believe that what I wrote Mr. Downie raised question of the journalistic honesty in presenting only one side and that from two with much to hide and NO evidence that Ray was not and could not have been the assassin, which I developed and for the most part Jim Lesar presented at the hearing of several decades ago.

If by this you mean what I think does not interest the Post, you'd be interested in proof that Ray was not the assassin, that I have, under oath and subject to cross examination.

Jim Lesar consulted my memory on a couple of points so I know he and you have spoken. Fact is I urged him to limit what he gives you to our work, and that was without any pretense of solving the crime.

My interest was in making the unwilling system work. I regret that the courts as well as the press insisted on not working in their traditional way.

Sorry, I misread your letter. What you do not understand and what the press missed entirely is that neither the JFK nor the King cases was ever officially investigated or intended to be. Each was an effort to make a preconception appear to be reasonable. If the Post had not decided that beginning with the very first book on the Warren Commission it would not review any of mine you might be aware of this in the JFK case from the documentation of it that is at the beginning of my NEVER AGAIN! In the King case FBI records I got in CA 75-1996 in which Jim was my lawyer state that all it did was a fugitive investigation.

There are quite a few cases such as the crap you published of those seeking favors making up what they thought could get them favors, like Byers and Curtis, in those FBI files. There is also one rather provocative indication of who did the job. You are welcome to that if you want it. I have it from the FBI's files and I have it from the FBI's source. The FBI ignored it. Naturally.

For you to expect a solution to the crime from Lesar is not only unfair, it is unprofessional when you published all that hogwash from Dick Billings and Priscilla Johnson McMillan. Whose husband announced his book as presuming Ray's guilt and then saying that made the writing easier. That makes her an authority? A quotable source for the Post? Or publishable as an authority?

Dick Billings knew me from when he was at LIFE. He did not speak to me about the King assassination although I had been Ray's investigator and wrote the first book on it. He and his committee began with the preconception of Ray's guilt and never looked at anything else. Until the FBI palmed Byers off on them. You might be interested in what the St. Louis Post Dispatch morgue has on that fine gentleman and what his situation was at the time he gulled the House assassins.

You publish what I describe as lies. I offered, with no demand of any kind, to address what you published. That you published lies is not of interest to you or to the Post? On that crime in particular? And all you are now interested in is what the Post did not demand of the FBI, a solution to the crime by anyone other than Ray?

If you and the Post regard this as journalism, I do not.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

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3/3/97

Dear Mr. Weisberg —

Jen Downie passed your letter along to me. I had already spoken to James Lesar about writing a piece along similar lines. As I told Mr. Lesar, at this point in the debate, what I am most interested in is any evidence of who might have done this other than Ray. To date, I have seen little or no such evidence. We'll see what Mr. Lesar comes up with.

Sincerely,

Eric Kelly

Deputy Editor