

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

May 31, 1975

Mr. Garry Willis
c/o The Washington Star
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Willis:

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Y
If you had set out to write about me maliciously and deliberately to misrepresent what else you pretended to be writing about in your column that appeared in the Washington Star May 29, you could not have succeeded better. The complete lack of fidelity - to my work, public statements or private correspondence; the the contents of that and other formerly TOP SECRET Warren Commission executive session transcripts (no, they are not mere "conversations"); to the thrust of the AP's accurate story and fair representation of the words of the liberating members of the Warren Commission; and even to the supposed denial of the report that Oswald had had federal connections - suggests you have these intentions.

And your past writing to live with.

Not only am I not a "conspiratorialist", I alone among those regarded as critics of the Warren Report take public issue with those who are. About my work and at this juncture your false representation, for which there is no basis other than your prejudice and preconception, this amounts to libel.

"Mr. Weisberg knows very well what it is all about." True. But does Mr. Willis? Or is he a deliberate liar?

You are not faithful to the story Lonnie Hudkins wrote. The number only was made up to entrap the FBI into proving it was illegally eavesdropping and intimidating those working on the story. When the FBI did show up within a half-hour, any doubts about their illegal activity?

Joe Goulden was not in on this. How could you honestly drag in all these irrelevancies and leave out his independent story?

You said Hudkins was a Warren Commission witness. He was not. The list appears in the Report (see p. 490).

You are entirely unfaithful to the sense of that and other Warren Commission executive sessions and to the accurate AP account of this one. It did not center on the number. The Commission's concern was put succinctly by General Counsel J. Lee Rankin five days later in another of these until-me TOP SECRET sessions: They had a "dirty rumor" and their function was not to investigate but to "wipe it out."

Consistent with this formulation, the Commission began with the precondition that there could not have been a conspiracy and that Oswald was the lone assassin. Their work outlines prove this. Thus, in the part