



**Frederick Press** ROUTE 8, FREDERICK, MD. 21701  
 Code 501/473-8186

March 12, 1969

Mr. John N. Mitchell  
 Attorney General of the United States  
 Department of Justice  
 Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

It has been ten days since I wrote you, months since the promised word from the previous Deputy Attorney General has not arrived. A strange kind of answer has been reported to me.

I have been informed that teams of FBI agents are going around telling people, some of whom I have never met, that I am a dangerous person, in some unspecified way under "Communist" influence. This same alleged "Communist" influence I am alleged to have exerted on New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, and it is further alleged that without it he would not have engaged in his prosecution of Clay Shaw.

All of this, of course, is quite false. I await your assurance that I have been misinformed, that your FBI agents are engaged in nothing as entirely improper as this.

The coincidence between this report and some of my critical writing about the FBI is so remarkable I cannot ignore it.

If you do not and cannot assure me that the FBI has not done this, is not going around telling me, then I certainly do want an explanation of why, for what proper purpose, with what legal authority. There once was a First Amendment to the Constitution. It should prohibit any federal interference with the rights and obligations of writers.

Or is it that your department is investigating Garrison and I am incidental to that? Should this be the case, then I am no less interested in explanation of its purpose, its legal authority.

May I add that the recent trial in New Orleans confronts you with a challenge to your integrity and that of your department? In it, Deen Adams Andrews swore that he had perjured himself before the Warren Commission. I submit that if your department tolerates this, with all the observers you had at the trial to take note of it, you have failed in your obligations and have begun a policy that will and with a record you will, at best, find uncomfortable, difficult to live with and at worst will be an intolerable self-defamation.

Sincerely yours,

129-11  
 23 17 1969  
 Harold Weisberg  
 -CRIMINAL-GEN. CRIME SEC.

ENCLOSURE

62-1090610

ENCLOSURE

Section 170

Rec'd March 9-14-69

Mr. Tolson	/
Mr. Boardman	/
Mr. Nichols	/
Mr. Belmont	/
Mr. Casper	/
Mr. Callahan	/
Mr. Conrad	/
Mr. Felt	/
Mr. Gale	/
Mr. Rosen	/
Mr. Sullivan	/
Mr. Tavel	/
Mr. Trotter	/
Tele. Room	/
Miss Holmes	/
Miss Gandy	/

MAR 26 1969

CWB:JRR:jac  
129-11

*Assassination of J.F.K.*

Mr. Harold Weisberg  
Coq d' Or Press  
Route 8  
Frederick, Maryland

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Attorney General Mitchell has referred your recent letters relating to the "Warren Commission" to me for consideration and reply. From those letters and previous correspondence it is plain that further exchange of correspondence between yourself and the Department of Justice on this matter will serve no useful purpose. You are, of course, welcome to communicate your views to us and they will receive due consideration.

It is unfortunate that the change in Administration has not and apparently will not make you certain that the element of politics played no role in the investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy or the formulation of the guidelines for release to the public of information on the matter in Government files. In our view, the substantial correctness of the Commission's Report remains unimpeached by any recent developments. There is no reason to believe that further investigation would serve to eliminate the doubts you and others have voiced, and, while we do explore possible new information which comes to our attention, we see no basis for reopening the primary investigation. We do appreciate the sincerity of your offer of assistance to us.

As to your allegation that agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation have slandered you, it should hardly be necessary to inform you that such conduct would be in complete disregard of Departmental and Bureau policy. We have sent a copy of your letter to the Director of the Bureau for his consideration and such action as he may deem appropriate.

30 MAR 26 1969  
 P.F.O.C.

*1/27/69*  
 ENCLOSURE  
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 1/27/69  
 ENCLOSURE

62-109060  
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 MAR 26 1969

C.C. 62-109060

ENCLOSURE

With respect to the admission of perjury on the part of Dean Andrews, we are, as you surmised, well aware of developments in that regard. As the matter involves a possible criminal prosecution you can appreciate, I am sure, that comment by us to you at this time would be inappropriate. However, in your evaluation of Federal action or inaction on this subject you should consider the fact that substantially the same misconduct, though before another forum, is currently under consideration in the courts of the State of Louisiana. This raises two factors for consideration. First, whether Federal action would amount to intervention in the State proceedings, and second, whether misconduct relating substantially to the same acts of an individual should be made the subject of successive state and Federal prosecutions.

No doubt you intend to pursue your inquiries into the assassination. Hopefully, the release of additional materials in the files, as the passage of time or other events make it possible, will serve to answer some of your questions. Again, may I say, we will welcome receipt of your views from time to time, for, though our views on the means may differ, we seek as you do to serve the best interests of the Nation on this grave subject.

Sincerely,

WILL WILSON  
Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division

By: CARL W. BELCHER  
Chief, General Crimes Section

*Wilson is the same  
character who would  
a few days ago about the  
Raf case*  
C. H.

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Bishop

FROM : G. E. Malmfeldt

SUBJECT: HAROLD WEISBERG  
COQ D'OR PRESS  
FREDERICK, MARYLAND

DATE: 4-1-69

Tolson	
DeLoach	
Mohr	
Bishop	
Casper	
Callahan	
Conrad	
Felt	
Gale	
Rosen	
Sullivan	
Tavel	
Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Holmes	
Gandy	

This is to recommend no acknowledgment of a letter dated March 24th from captioned individual wherein he is requesting information regarding the James Earl Ray case for his forthcoming book. Weisberg has been critical of Bureau in past.

By letter dated March 24th, captioned individual requested that he be furnished information, including photographs, on the James Earl Ray case for a book regarding Ray he is preparing and asked to be afforded same courtesy we extended Clay Blair, Jr., regarding his book, "The Strange Case of James Earl Ray." On March 12, 1969, Weisberg wrote Attorney General Mitchell and made allegations against Bureau Agents that they were slandering him because of his alleged influence on New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison. He requested an explanation from Mr. Mitchell regarding this. By letter dated 3/26/69, the Department acknowledged Weisberg's letter and denied allegations. Letter pointed out that from Weisberg's previous correspondence regarding the Warren Commission that it is plain any further exchange of correspondence between him and the Department of Justice will serve no useful purpose. Bufiles disclose Weisberg is author of several books, the first of which was entitled "Whitewash - The Report of the Warren Report" and has in past been critical of the Warren Commission, the FBI, Secret Service, police agencies and other branches of Government. He was one of ten employees fired by State Department during 1947 because of suspicion of being a communist or having communist sympathies. In 1961 he and his wife were subject of a Federal Tort Claims Act investigation for damages allegedly sustained in poultry business as a result of low flying helicopters. We did not cooperate with Clay Blair, Jr., in connection with preparation of his book but we did look over his rough manuscript and several major discrepancies regarding us were pointed out to him.

In view of Weisberg's background and his baseless allegations toward Bureau Agents, it is not felt his letter of March 24th or any subsequent correspondence should be acknowledged as it will only encourage further letters from him.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That this letter of March 24th not be acknowledged for reasons heretofore set forth.

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Bishop - Enclosures (3)
- FMG:cac (4)

60 APR 1 1969

62-109000-  
NOT RECORDED  
124 APR 9 1969

10 APR 1969  
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# Memorandum

*Eng...*

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
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- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
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- FMG:caq (4)

60 APR 1 1969

62-109000-  
NOT RECORDED  
12 APR 1969  
T.B.  
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Printed by Arnold Weisberg

C&O Press ROUTE 8, FREDERICK, MD. 21701

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March 24, 1969

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
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Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

R. J. Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover,

In his just published book, "The Strange Case of James Earl Ray", Clay Blair, Jr., expresses his gratitude for the information and assistance given him by your bureau.

I have written a book including the Ray case, and I would like to be able to include any information that might be missing.

Therefore, I write to ask for what has been given Mr. Blair and perhaps other writers and any other data you might properly give me.

Now that there has been a court proceeding, I hope some of what might earlier have been considered secret is no longer. I am particularly interested in that evidence that establishes or tends to establish that Ray was the assassin, such things as the ballistics proof. Because there are so many contrary indications, I would also appreciate proof that he harbored racial animosities. And with the existing indications of the involvement of more than one person, for example, evidences that while Ray was in California someone acting for him was in Alabama, I would particularly like to know what persuaded your bureau that he was entirely alone. Ray and members of his family say he was not alone, as - interpret their statements.

Your bureau has also released some pictures. I would appreciate copies. Possibly you have pictures you may not properly give me, those taken by photographers at the scene of the crimes. I would like references to those taken as close as possible to the moment of the crime and at its scene.

My purpose in seeking this information is to make my work as complete and accurate as possible. Because what was earlier available persuades that Ray was not alone and probably was not the assassin, I am quite anxious to have all the available proofs that there was no conspiracy and that he was the assassin.

Thank you for any help you may provide.

Sincerely yours,

NOT RECORDED  
Harold Weisberg  
12 APR 9 1969

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13 MAR 23 1969

Memo filed to Bishop memo 67-107060  
4/11/69  
60 APR 21 1969 nat

CORRESPONDENCE