

Memorandum

DATE: 4-1-69

TO: [Signature]
FROM: G. E. Meltsfeld
SUBJECT: HAROLD WEISBERG
COSTUME DRESS
FREDERICK, MARYLAND

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 3/29/69, 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 "Ying" heanders. 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.

(REC-107)

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 therefore set forth.

- Mr. DeLoach
- Mr. Bishop - Enclosures (3)
- EMG:mac (4)

60 APR 15 1969

APR 9 1969

RECEIVED



Harold Blisberg

Code of Press Route 8, Frederick, MD. 21701

Code 201/473-8186

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Pennington
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy

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

Dear Mr. Hoover:

In my just published book, "The Strange Case of James Earl Ray",
Clay Blair, III, expresses his gratitude for the information and assistance
given me by your Bureau.

I have written the 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 to Blair in past
other matters and any other data you might soverly give me.

I do not think there has been a court or hearing, and here, one of my
earlier have been conducted secret is to lower. I am, therefore, I want to
to last evidence that establishes or tends to establish that Ray was the
author, and that he had the ballistic proof. So the case is on my
entirely independent. I would like to receive a list of the names of all
relatives, and with the existing information of the involvement of each
one person. If possible, evidence that while Ray was in jail, he was
with the other men in the house. I would particularly like to know what persons
your Bureau that he was getting alone. Ray's lawyers could fully say to
we will stand, and I understand their interest is.

Your Bureau has also released some pictures, and I would like to see
locally you have returned you may not properly give me. I would like to see
or part of the picture. I would like to see a list of the names of the
persons who were in the house at the time of the shooting.

My purpose in seeking this information is to see if there is any
and accurate or complete. I would like to see a list of the names of the
and not alone and probably was not the assassin. I am not aware of any
the available records that there was no conspiracy and that he was the assassin.

Thank you for any help you may provide.

Handwritten notes:
M...
4/11/59
60 APR 15 1959

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APR 13 1959

MAR 26 1959

CORRESPONDENCE