

Dilia, Czechoslovakia

Harold Weisberg
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Dear Mr. Bernau,

Some years ago, when I researched and wrote the first book exposing the Warren Commission and its "Whitewash" of the assassination of President Kennedy, you were kind enough to try to place it and the following books in the series with your publishers.

This work grew into a definitive exposure of the federal intelligence agencies, especially the FBI, which did most of the "investigating." It also led me to much that was suppressed in violation of the law, particularly one termed the "Freedom of Information" law. Because I was convinced that these additional dishonesties required airing, that official corruption required cleansing, and because I am in the tradition of adversary writers, I began suing the government in federal court. This was not easy for many reasons, one the power of the government and its determination to continue to suppress at whatever cost, another my lack of means. However, I filed four cases, winning three. The fourth went to the Supreme Court, where I lost because of the false swearing by officialdom in the lower courts.

Official abuses in that case were such that the government in effect converted the law from one requiring that information be made available to the people into a license to suppress. But the Senate, citing this case in the debates, amended the law. Gerald Ford, then President and formerly a member of this same Warren Commission, vetoed the amended law. The Congress overrode his veto overwhelmingly.

The fourth of these suits was for a TOP SECRET transcript of a session of the members of this Warren Commission, held on 1/27/64, before they held their first hearing for the taking of testimony. No members of the staff were permitted to be present except for the general counsel, who actually ran the Commission. He is J. Lee Rankin, formerly the government's top lawyer as Solicitor General of the United States. The purpose of this exceptional session was to consider what to do about reports that the accused assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, had been a federal agent.

To deny me this transcript the government invented new dirty tricks. It did not eschew swearing falsely to claim suppression was authorized by "national security." However, in the course of my investigations of the past decade I had come into possession of an enormous amount of evidence. And I had been seeking this transcript for most of that time, so I was well prepared. I was able to prove and I did charge in court that there has been this false swearing. I was able to attach documentary proofs to my affidavit. Of course, in swearing to this is a suit that was really against the prosecutor (Weisberg v. Department of Justice in the law books), I was putting my head on the block. It became quite bizarre but in the end I was given what I sought, 90 pages each stamped TOP SECRET twice.

This came at a time when I was nearing the end of the draft of a book on the Watergate in which I bring to light much that also has been suppressed, especially unknown interconnections and the as yet unreported involvements of the CIA. And I immediately had to go to work as investigator for James Earl Ray, falsely accused of having assassinated Dr. Martin Luther King. My book Frame-Up provides the basis of this defense. And my lawyer in this suit is a young friend who then had not yet taken his first case to court. He actually was doing all the legal work in the Ray/King case, with me as investigator and counsellor. (We have won an evidentiary hearing, to determine whether Ray may have a trial. We expect the decision in about three weeks. And we have, besides destroying the faked case against Ray in open court, established a new legal precedent in the rights of the accused.) Although handicapped by these added and immediate demands on my time I rushed the fourth of the Whitewash series to completion, made efforts with three New York publishers, and then decided to do another book as my own publisher. My young lawyer friend borrowed the money to pay the printer, became my colleague in the book, and it appeared.

Once again I am denied commercial distribution and once again there is enormous pressures against this kind of work. The content make the reason apparent. However, by means of

the initial news attention I was able to obtain by unorthodox measures, by telephoned broadcasts to radio stations and by a mailing, sample enclosed for your information) to the more than 2,000 people who have written me over the years to express appreciation for my work and efforts, we have, in two months, been able to pay off half of the cost.

To appreciate what this means in terms of interest, my financial situation precludes my making long-distance phone calls because I can't pay for them. However, with this book I have been interviewed from one coast to the other and from Holland on the east to Hawaii on the west, by phone. Day before yesterday I broadcast to the extreme northwest corner of the mainland, to Seattle, day before that to Los Angeles, yesterday to Mississippi, and for the first time last night I declined one, to a major station that covers all but two of the states, because it would have defamed a black friend of international reputation who had erred in public. So it goes, but it is bringing the long-suppressed fact to the attention of the people.

What this suppressed transcript contains includes a self-denunciation of the federal intelligence agencies like none ever made by those who criticize them. Allen Dulles, who had been head of the CIA until after the Bay of Pigs, his creation, was also a member of the Warren Commission. He told his fellow Commissioners, when all expected their words to be forever secret, that false swearing and perjury are the official way of intelligence life, that this perjury is right and proper, that they used "terribly bad characters" and much, much more, including how impossible it is to know who serves them and how the records, if they exist, are disguised. His colleagues agreed that they met "very limited mentalities both in the CIA and the FBI." The terror of the late chief of the FBI, J. Edgar Hoover, is unhidden.

In the end they worked out how they would not investigate the report that Oswald had been a federal spook.

One of the greater sensations, one still not mentioned anywhere except by me, is the crookedness of the man now President. He put his former campaign manager on the public payroll to be his ghost writer, stole this TOP SECRET transcript, a serious federal crime, and for pay commercialized his membership on this Commission with a work of propaganda titled Portrait of the Assassin. However, in doing this, he also expunged every word of criticism of the intelligence agencies and compounded that by pretending that he had made no single change in the words. I have a page-by-page comparison, word for word, of these portions, in facsimile. Then, when he testified in the confirmation hearing when he was appointed Vice President, he swore falsely that he had used nothing secret in this commercialization of his near to sacred responsibilities of a decade earlier, the phoney investigation of the crime without which Nixon would never have been President and Ford neither Vice President nor now President.

In every sense this is by far the most sensational of my work. Most of the book is facsimile reproductions, of other secret Commission, FBI, Secret Service and other documents resulting from my investigations. Even TOP SECRET Commission housekeeping papers! The content, I believe, is important for all the peoples of the world, more so because of the world situation today. And so I write in the hope that you may again be willing to try to place my work with your publishers. This time I do not send a copy of the book in advance by air simply because I can't afford to do it without an expression of possible interest. I am now almost 62, have no regular income and heavy debts, but I still manage to start work before 5 a.m. every day and keep going until close to midnight. My earlier books are still of interest. I received orders from total strangers who learn of them almost daily. These works are still topical, I remind you. They are also the only ones available and they are the definitive works on this turning point in our national history and that of the world. But all of this keeps me very busy because in addition to being researcher, investigator, sometimes lawyer and writer I am also the entire publishing staff, including the shipping department. But in terms of cash, it is not profitable. It requires that I be careful with the little money I have. And so I do not put a copy of the book onto an airplane until I hear from you.

It will not surprise me if this and other of my work figures in the coming Congressional investigations, if you know of the ^{my} caused by "leaks" of spook illegalities and improprieties. (I have copies of some of the surveillance on me, have made private protest to officialdom, have asked for redress of these grievances, and if it is not forthcoming will again sue.