

EVELLE J. YOUNGER  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF CALIFORNIA



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

**Department of Justice**

STATE BUILDING, LOS ANGELES 90012

October 12, 1971

Mr. Harold Weisberg  
Coq d'Or Press  
Route 8  
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I am in receipt of your letter raising questions concerning the integrity of the evidence in the Sirhan case and the propriety of Mr. Robert Houghton's writing a book on the case in his capacity as head of the Los Angeles Police Department team assigned to investigate the assassination.

A comprehensive inquiry has been made by the police department, the District Attorney's office, and this office into the allegations challenging the ballistics testimony at the Sirhan trial. At this stage there is nothing which casts the slightest doubt on the conclusion reached by the jury at the Sirhan trial that the bullets which struck Senator Kennedy and the other victims all came from the weapon fired by Sirhan at the time of the assassination. The only matter which is in any doubt is whether the ballistics evidence has retained its integrity subsequent to the time of Sirhan's trial and conviction. The Grand Jury of Los Angeles County last month conducted an inquiry lasting several days into the county clerk's handling of the exhibits from the Sirhan case subsequent to the trial and concluded that the lax procedures followed by the clerk's office raised the possibility that the evidence had been tampered with since that time. However, there is no evidence that any tampering might have been done at the hands of any local or state officer or employee, nor would the existence of such tampering bear upon the question of Sirhan's proven guilt.

Nor do I consider there to have been any impropriety in Mr. Houghton's writing a book based on his experience in conducting the police investigation. Mr. Houghton presently has my confidence as Deputy Director in charge of the Division of Criminal Investigation and Information of this office.

Mr. Harold Weisberg

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Thank you for your expression of interest and concern in this matter.

Very truly yours,



EVELLE J. YOUNGER  
Attorney General

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
600 STATE BUILDING  
217 WEST FIRST STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

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