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Author Seeks Congressional Probe Of JFK Assassination

By LEE BAYLIN
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The recent transfer of evidence to the National Archives relating to the Kennedy Assassination has been termed "an act of desperation that won't work" by a Hyattstown author.

Harold Weisberg, author of "Whitewash" has called for a public investigation of the assassination by Congress.

He demands a public investigation "because the national honor is at stake."

He suggests Congress investigate because they have the power to "compel attendance and testimony."

He called the limitations put on the deposit of the photographs and X-rays from the autopsy by the Kennedy family unreasonable. It amounts to suppression, he said.

The restrictions prohibit non-official access to the photographs for five years. After five years, access is limited to pathologists with the consent of the Kennedy family. Access to the public is restricted to after the death of the late President's widow, mother, brothers and sisters and two children.

"The only people who can see these things within anybody's lifetime," he said, "are the people who can do nothing with them. The best the pictures themselves can do is to prove that one less lie was told."

"They cannot show the place from which the bullet came; they can't even show the angle from which the bullet came," Weisberg said.

"People can use these pictures and give meaning to them," he said. "But a pathologist who has not made a study of the assassination can tell us nothing."

In his book, Weisberg has reviewed the Warren Commission Report using the commission's own evidence. He has pointed up many of the shortcomings of the report, and details his criticisms with precise references to the commissions own records.

A former writer, turned champion poultry raiser-turned writer again, Weisberg lives garret style in a partially completed house on his farm near Hyattsville. His wife, who he refers to as part of his book, is his only staff.

He readily admits that he exploits the "legitimate newsworthiness" of his book to promote it.

"How else do you publicize a book when you have no funds" he asked.

Weisberg privately published his book after long efforts to get it accepted by a publishing house.

He has traveled to New York and Philadelphia to appear on "talk type" radio and TV shows, and has participated in panel programs in the mid-

west and west coast by telephone.

His two telephones ring constantly with calls from well wishers, inquiries on where his book can be purchased, and tips on new leads on the assassination. He also receives the usual number of crank calls that a person in the public view is apt to get.

He is now preparing his second book, entitled "Whitewash II, Who Did It!"

It is in the hands of a publisher now, he said, but "if it is not published within a certain time limit, I'll publish it myself."

Weisberg is sharply critical of the publishing industry and the press. In the preface to his first book, he terms it the "book that could not be printed."

Before publishing the book himself, Weisberg submitted it to 69 publishers in the United States and publishing houses in 69 countries.