

Harold Weisberg
Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701
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Dear Congressman Edwards,

While I am not encouraged by the silence of members of your staff to whom, as I did to you, I offered what help I can, even at jeopardy to a considerable amount of work I have done, this morning's quotations of you in the Post prompt another letter. It may not interest you, but when I started work at 3 a.m., I hope you will regard my taking the time at least as serious intent.

Bittman is quoted as telling you that 15 members of his former firm spent so much time that translating into the effort of one person it comes to 60 and a half weeks of work. There was relatively little time spent in court appearances. Can there have been that much law to research, so much time required for the limited appeal?

When Bittman seems under the need to account for so large a fee, it then seems to me that - assuming the accuracy of quotation - his failure to include the time of a lawyer not a member of his firm is more likely to have the significance I attribute to it in what I am writing.

There were the most insignificant notices in the papers when Bittman left the case. The Post gave no reason, the New York Times said conflict of interest. If you have any information on this that you can properly let me have I would welcome it because my own inquiry provides reason to believe that whether or not Mr. Cox visualized any conflict of interest it can be alleged that Bittman and three other lawyers were part of the covering up of significant evidence, initially of clandestine payments. One was not an member of the Hogan and Hartson firm.

Again the story is equivocal and can't be taken as a full reflection of what you said yesterday. As it relates to Bittman and impeachment, if there was no questioning to establish a) that the reported sums are 100% of them and the accounting of what was done with them is 100% of that, there may be unexpbred possibilities. Because I have not been able to investigate personally, there are two sums of which I know for which there is no accounting. One is of \$10,000, the other of \$100,000. This does not exhaust what I have reason to believe can be relevant.

For my own work I would appreciate it if you could have the committee's releases sent to me as they appear. I will not be able to get to Washington for some time and will be unable to get a copy of the transcripts volume released yesterday.

As I told Mrs. Stickney, because there is no indication that your committee is doing any original investigating and because I know only part of what other committees have done and have not published, I have no way of knowing what you do or do not know and thus do not know what I do that may be unknown to you.

I also do not have the text of the Baker report. From what I have read of it and the Colson anti-CIA campaign I am confident that they are a well-coordinated new cover-up.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg