

23 December 1974

Dear Barney:

Since retiring from AP two years ago we have pursued our interest in coverups, including the latest, and this has meant being in touch with Harold Weisberg.

Now he sends me the enclosed letter intended for Dan Ellsberg, whose address he was unable to get from the telephone company. I assume the number is unlisted, and both because I want to disturb things as little as possible and because Weisberg himself suggests you as a channel, I'm turning the letter over to you along with a carbon Weisberg sent, which I've copied so don't return it. In my view, Ellsberg's interests come first, so you should see the letter before you pass it along, if you do. For the same reason I would be reluctant to mail locally a letter bearing the particular Maryland return address it does.

You may find interesting, if not useful to your client, Weisberg's limited success in wringing improperly classified material out of the government via the D.C. Federal Courts, mostly invoking the Freedom of Information Act against the pose of national security.

For instance he sought for years, with no result whatever, to obtain declassification of the minutes of the January 27, 1964, meeting of the Warren Commission in which J. Lee Rankin and Allen Dulles conned Earl Warren and the rest of the Commission into going along with the lone-nut assassin theory by ignoring evidence of Oswald's connections with both the CIA and the FBI. Almost a year ago the National Archives suddenly declassified these minutes and dumped them on Weisberg, he suspects because Nixon at the time wanted to smear the CIA, but he did not use them until after Nixon was dethroned. A full transcript of these minutes makes up most of Weisberg's latest book, Whitewash IV, which opens with a brief comment by Weisberg and ends with a legal analysis by Jim Lesar, a junior counsel in the James Earl Ray case. Weisberg's part includes a fairly comprehensive review of his fights against government secrecy and phony claims of national security.

Perhaps by now it's habit, but I can't accept the ripoff of your client as a coincidence, so I hope that in turning the enclosed over to you I may not just be making a minor nuisance of myself.

With every best wish,



James D. White
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