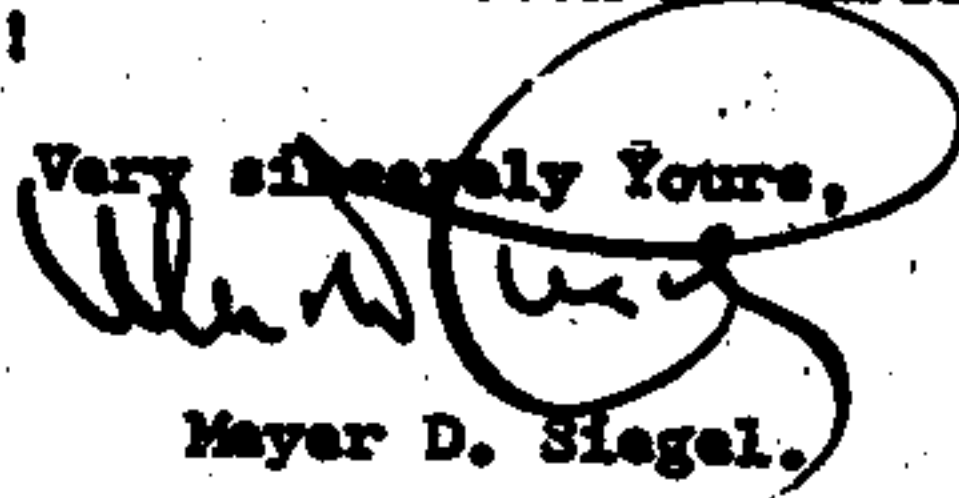


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MU 7-8018

Had these tragedies been enacted within the State of New York, and involved the same persons, and if I were the attorney for the defendant, I would request the District Attorney to confer with the Trial Justice and with the Governor of the State, to permit the defendant to plead "guilty" to manslaughter (other than murder) and that upon such plea the sentence imposed by the presiding Justice be commuted (if necessary) by exercise of Executive clemency by the Governor, to the time already spent by the defendant in custody preceding the trial. Upon release of the defendant from custody, the Governor to grant the defendant a pardon to reinstate the defendant's civil rights. To my mind the suggestion is just plain, simple common sense. The preparation for and the trial of this case would involve an enormous waste of time and money on the part of both prosecution and of the defense, with no likelihood that twelve conscientious jurors could agree upon a unanimous verdict. Let's assume, despite the improbability that a jury did agree on a verdict of guilty, would the Governor refuse executive clemency to the defendant who acted in a state of uncontrollable rage against the man who sought to kill and who actually did seriously wound the Governor? Any answer but an emphatic "NO!" would be a reflection on Governor Connally. Why waste the valuable time of hundreds of our citizens called as prospective jurors, of investigators, process servers, stenographers, medical experts, the court personnel, and of counsel on both sides whose talents can be employed to more worthy causes.

As to you, your attorney and your counsel, I waive the right of privacy as to the contents of this letter. You may publicize any portion thereof.

On the separate cover, I am sending you a paper-back copy of my book "Religion Is Here To Stay: Whether You Like It Or Not", with the hope you might find it interesting reading. This book will not be on shelves for three months. I might add, that a complimentary copy of the book was mailed to Governor Connally and to Attorney General Waggoner Carr on October 5, 1963. A copy of this letter has been forwarded to the Governor by the same mail. God bless you!

Very sincerely yours,

Meyer D. Siegel.