

ADM. 9-1
22a North Nashville Ave.
Ventnor, N.J. 08406
April 8, 1969

4-10-69
Police Chief Charles Batchelor
Dallas Police Headquarters
Dallas, Texas

Dear Mr. Batchelor:

For some time I have been deeply disturbed by the seemingly endless controversy which has followed the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and, more recently, the murders of Senator Robert Kennedy and Doctor Martin Luther King. It is frightening, of course, to know that a United States President, a United States Senator, and a respected civic leader can be so cruelly shot down and destroyed. It is no less terrifying to realize that other national leaders may in time suffer a similar fate.

Yet, I believe that my principal concern is for the American people and the damage being done to them by the lack of a thorough understanding of this bizarre chain of events. Mostly, I am annoyed by the absurd charge that we are all to blame; that we are a sick society. This is not true. America is not a sick nation, it is the healthiest and most advanced people in the history of civilization. The average American man has harmed no one but because of the confusion prevalent today, he is becoming uncertain of his position. It is depressing to pick up a newspaper and learn that a reader is "ashamed to be an American."

Of all the books and articles written on the subject, not one has given a clear and concise presentation of the facts. To a great extent, it is this failure that is responsible for the nationwide confusion. Wild and arbitrary speculation has served only to worsen matters, and recent developments in New Orleans and Memphis have added to the suspicion, doubt and public torment. I believe the real need is for one book that presents all the known facts, objectively and comprehensively, in strict chronological order, without undue speculation and free of distortion; a book that examines the evidence point by point, with both ends of the controversy presented side by side, so that the reader can determine for himself or herself what the facts really are.

I would like to write that book. My purpose would not be to "investigate the assassination," as other writers have claimed to do. One, that is police business; two, I have no such resources. The sole purpose of my book would be to offer a clear account of the facts. This would necessarily require the cooperation of those who were involved in the matter, that I may personally talk to them and draw from their knowledge. I would not be interested in writing a book that was based on anything less.