

How Much Credibility Will The Warren Commission Report Give This Witness?

Dear Mrs. West:

The following quote from Ruth Paine in your REBECK article was interesting: "I didn't try to preach to Lee about right or wrong. I simply told him that I was the kind of person who had never been able to tell a lie."

We wonder if this statement was as amusing to Lee Oswald as it is to us? In February, 1964, we traveled to Dallas to talk to Mrs. Paine. During the course of our visit Mrs. Paine told us a number of things DIRECTLY OPPOSED to those she told you. While we realize that Mrs. Paine was under no obligation to tell us anything at all, the fact of the matter is SHE DID. Therefore, either in her conversation with us or in her conversation with you, SHE LIED. Does this not negate her self-revealing statement: "I (am) the kind of person who has never been able to lie?"

Exactly how much credibility will the Warren Commission give to a witness of this type? If Lee Oswald had lived and gone to trial, Mrs. Paine's pathetic assessment of her own "superb" personality would have been cut to ribbons by proper cross examination. As it is, the Warren Commission (and President Johnson whom the Warren Commission represents) is leaving itself wide open to an inordinate amount of historical criticism by accepting without question testimony from a witness of this type.

Our human pity for Mrs. Paine's delusions and personality defects does NOT extend to the Warren Commission which as an impersonal body should know better.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Mark E. Martin and Children
Hosiny, Oklahoma
June 20, 1964

cc: 50