

Dear Mr. Bishop:

I am so sorry you are not able to understand what motivates those of us who will not accept the so-called official version of the assassination of our President. Since I have worked seven months on this case, have interviewed numerous people concerned in it, have tape recorded a number of interesting conversations and have a working cross-file of over 200 names, I feel moderately qualified to speak in this regard.

I must point out in the first place that in regard to your criticism of the books by Mr. Joesten and Mr. Buchanan, it sounds to me from reading your comments that you have not carefully read these books. There are, I agree, a number of points in each book with which I disagree. On the other hand, you must remember that each book came out early in the investigation, serving a purpose that neither you nor I had the courage to serve: The direction of public attention to a case that the American press had both neglected and covered-up.

I must tell you frankly that there is no doubt more than one assassin is involved in this assassination; and that the authorities MUST decide WHICH man Oswald killed: Officer Tippit or President Kennedy? It was physically impossible for him to have killed them both. In this regard the Warren Commission is between a rock and a hard place and I sympathize with them. But I cannot condone their foolishness.

Is it necessary for me to detail for you here the absurdity of the Commission in general? I am not impressed with "blue ribbon," and I hope you are not either. We are all familiar with what blue ribbon has done to the Bobby Baker investigation, and, of course, anyone with even a limited vision of history knows that men in authority are NOT by this very fact made pure and unadulterated. No one could want more than I to absolve the Commission of historical complicity in the Dallas police-FBI assassination whitewash; but I cannot, and I will not. Therefore, regardless of the years it takes, regardless of the chains barked, this issue must be faced and aired.

A friend of mine in Dallas (who was a close eye-witness to the assassination) told me recently that she had been threatened by the Dallas police and the FBI with economic reprisal if she held any further conversations with Mr. Mark Lane, NY attorney who is defending Lee Oswald before the Court of World Opinion. Oswald's former Marine buddy, Nelson Delgado, accepts the FBI pressure put on him. Earl Warren, early in December, 1963, stated that the Warren Commission would not evaluate the physical evidence in the assassination (in other words, do NONE of its own police work); but would rely on the FBI evaluation in this regard. (Too many of us are aware of the backlog of manipulated evidence in past instances used by Mr. Hoover's FBI to be tremendously cheered by this determination!) Gerald Ford's cocktail party betrayal of testimony given Earl Warren by Jack Ruby was unforgettable. The constant grumbling by certain Commissioners that the investigation was "too dry" and "taking too long" cannot be forgotten. Mr. Kennedy's death was

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apparently I am exciting enough for these men.

You yourself mention the statement made by Mr. Warren in regard to "not in your lifetime." In addition to this is the remark made by Mr. Warren in February that the appointment by the Commission of Walter Craig as defense attorney for Lee Oswald did not in any way infer a Commission belief in Lee Oswald's innocence. What a statement to make in February when it was precisely for this reason that the Commission was formed, i.e., to assess Oswald's guilt or innocence, not pre-determine it! In addition to this was the ridiculous statement issued by Newsweek Magazine that the Commissioners had discovered in their pursuit of information that returned defectors to America from abroad are NEVER watched in any way by any agency, state, local, or federal. This is probably one of the most asinine statements made by a Commission "leak" and one hopes to God that their "trial balloon" in this regard bursts so as to spare them the agonizing embarrassment that this statement will bring once it is published in the official report. Even I have a list of contacts made with Oswald by certain agencies and the names of the men who made these contacts in addition to the names of witnesses who witnessed them.

So it goes. I viewed the formation of the Commission with great hope. As my family can tell you, I was elated. No one admired or supported two men more than I did John Sherman Cooper and Earl Warren. On the other hand, while Mr. Cooper and Mr. Warren may earnestly believe that what they are attempting to foist off on the "American people and the world" may be for the good of civilization as a whole, I cannot accept this. Murray Kempton has said wisely in his recent article on the Oswald case that the prime objective of the Warren Commission is NOT to determine the truth in regard to the case, but to do a cosmetic job on the American image, both at home and abroad.

Someone recently called America "an old whore." And while I was deeply shocked to read this description, I must say I grow increasingly aware as day follows day that to do a cosmetic job on "an old whore" is a well-nigh impossible task. There is nothing so beautiful as youth, purity and truth.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Mark E. Martin and Children
Box 566
Hominy, Oklahoma

cc: Thomas Buchanan
Joachim Joesten
Mark Lane
James Lee Rankin
Murray Kempton

Kenneth Crawford
Donald Janson
William T. Coleman, Jr.
Nicholas deB Katzenback