

12 December 1966

Dear Tom,

If I am correct in believing that you are a critic of the Warren Commission, then it seems to me that you were the first critic to see the Zapruder film. Nothing prevented you from doing all of those things which you tax the other critics with not having done.

But I have a growing impression that you are, first and foremost, a critic of the critics of the Commission, and that you have not yet found merit in any work done by any of the researchers.

You say that the basic prerequisite is a political approach to the assassination and you ask "Why do you fight it?" This is an offensive question which implies intellectual dishonesty and moral cowardice. I do not "fight" but I do reject a political approach which I regard as merely the other side of the coin of the ultra-rightists. They are certain that there was a political conspiracy, that it was hatched in the Kremlin or in Havana, and they are beginning to fill the newspaper columns with vicious innuendo and charges of a Communist plot. The evidence, material and circumstantial, they of course regard as irrelevant and extraneous, since they know already who the guilty parties are.

I have no intention of imitating or echoing from the left what the Henry Taylors and the Revilo Olivers declaim from the right. This was a political crime, but it was also a crime--a triple homicide, in fact--and the evidence cannot be irrelevant. The evidence establishes the fact that Kennedy was killed in a cross-fire; but it has not yet established whose fingers were on the triggers nor the identity of the principals who commissioned the executioners. To accuse "the government" (whatever my private impressions) would dignify the doctrinaire unsupported accusations by the ultra-right against Castro and/or the Kremlin.

Let me suggest, in a friendly spirit, that the time and effort spent in reprimanding the critics for their shortcomings can better be used to do directly and effectively what you consider has been done inadequately by others.

Yours sincerely,

