

Found in Margaret Simmons Folder

28 March 1968

Dear Margaret,

(Simmons)

Thanks for keeping me informed re: "Today." If they get in touch, I will be greatly surprised. And perhaps that is just as well, since their niggling 20-minute (including commercials) surveys of major issues manage to be so superficial and misdirected as to be virtually without educative value, if not actually prejudicial and misleading.

You are very perceptive to discern the "vast let-down" which I am in fact experiencing. Partly, it is the product of anticlimax, with the book finally out and with the last of the reviews already "in." With the exception of perhaps two or three, the reviews have been marvelous --but the book is going very slowly and seems to have made no real impact. Partly, the feeling of let-down results from my disenchantment, disillusion, and even disgust with most of my fellow-critics, who have allied themselves with Garrison and thus vitiated the moral basis of their whole effort against the Warren Report. If that is not enough, they are also doing much mischief against Thompson, insisting that the regrettable weaknesses in his book are calculated and sinister, and attacking me for having helped Thompson and Epstein. That I also helped Weisberg, Sauvage, Marcus, and others--by reading their manuscripts and making suggestions, and in other ways--reflected an attitude on my part that, to my great regret, has now changed. From the time of the assassination until perhaps a year ago or so, I was completely trusting and genuinely unselfish, convinced that the only thing that mattered was the effort to expose the fraudulence of the WR and to establish the true facts.

I never withheld any information or effort to strengthen the work of other critics and truly I never gave a thought to credit or recognition of personal gain; and I took it for granted that anyone and everyone else who seemed to be committed in the same way to the restoration of truth and justice was equally idealistic and principled, and would accept nothing less than truth and justice. But as it has turned out, there has been such willingness to serve the cause of a more acceptable fraud (Garrison's), and so much demand for credit, so much back-biting and cheating, and so much spurious "friendship," that I am despondent and disgusted. The lines between the Warren Commission camp, and the camp of the critics, have become blurred, in the moral and ethical sense; and while I continue to feel satisfaction about my book and about the index, in terms of the historical record, I have lost entirely the sense of being part of a team engaged in a good fight against ugly injustice. I suppose my puritanism is over-powerful; but I cannot compromise on these issues and the worst of the alienation from the other critics, or most of them, is the realization that my friendships with them were only illusory in the first place, and that there never was a real "team" in the true sense.

When all is said and done, though, I suppose what is really dejecting me is that my work seems to have finished, and the whole subject seems to have come to a dead end. The long period of hard labor, now that I look back upon it, was a good and positive one, and I am not doing anything now except marking time. Well, things are bound to change, and I will manage to be patient. Your continuing friendly interest helps more than you know. With warm thanks and personal regards,

Sincerely,