

ESTABLISHED 1838

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November 16, 1967

Mr. Mort Sahl
NBC RADIO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Sahl:

I did not hear your program on Tuesday night when you mentioned Sylvia Meagher's ACCESSORIES AFTER THE FACT, but if what I heard about it is correct, some clarification is in order.

While Mark Lane originally offered to make a comment about the book to Sylvia Meagher, it was I who wrote to him asking him to do so. From that point on, until Mr. Lane dictated his comment to me by telephone, the matter was in my hands.

It is true that I did not inform Mr. Lane of changes made between the galleys he read and the finished book. The Jim Garrison reference was, by the way, only one of many; this is not unusual in the process of publishing a book.

I did not feel that any of the changes were substantive. The original manuscript reference to Mr. Garrison was an aside. His investigation had begun, and Mrs. Meagher was at that time hopeful about the outcome. This is the reference which appears in the galleys which Mr. Lane read. During the course of events, Mrs. Meagher became disenchanted with Mr. Garrison's investigation, and after it was possible to make changes in type, on the page proofs of the book, she altered her aside accordingly. (Had the investigation impressed her differently at that time, I would have asked her to expand her remarks to make greater recognition of it.)

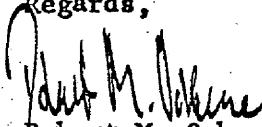
I have been saying "an aside," since the reference to Mr. Garrison is peripheral to the book in both instances; they are merely expressions

sions of Mrs. Meagher's strong convictions and do not apply to the body of the book itself, and to her analysis of the Warren Report and of the behavior of the authorities and the media. Similarly, it is to Mrs. Meagher's analysis, that Mr. Lane addressed his comment.

I am appending copies of the original manuscript pages and the printed book pages so that you can compare the references. I don't feel that the book's merit is altered by either version, and hope that you will be able to take the time to read it. I believe ACCESSORIES AFTER THE FACT to be a very significant contribution to the opposition to the Report. I am also enclosing a carbon of a letter I've written to Mark Lane in the hopes that it will reach him more quickly through you.

As an aside of my own, I'd like to add that we're in the midst of a most complex time, when critics of the Report are attacking each other - not over who is the better critic or who has a better theory about what really happened, but over Mr. Garrison's investigation. It seems essential to me for distinctions to be made between the two investigations, and that the final discrediting of the Warren Report not be entirely dependent upon the outcome of Jim Garrison's investigation and the trial of Clay Shaw.

Regards,


Robert M. Ockene
Editor

RMO/af
Enclosure
c.c: Mr. Mark Lane