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Miss Sylvia Meagher
302 West 12 Street
New York, N. Y. 10014

Dear Miss Meagher:

Great! Any contract for publication of your index, so long as it is an honorable offer, should be accepted. Just getting it into print and available for all time is an important accomplishment.

The story that you tell in your letter about the young man's doctoral thesis and the despair of the lawyers over the fact that they didn't have any real evidence against Oswald and so on is disturbing. I simply have no expertise in this area but I should suppose that so intricate and corrupt a set of institutions as a large Texas city's police department, the frighteningly intricate way in which the institutions and professions are related and confused by local prejudice and local adaptation, would undoubtedly make the proposition of a clean cut case out of the whole matter almost beyond the power of human beings to accomplish.

Your whole analysis of the ammunition discrepancy is fascinating and similarly with the other discrepancies you mention. What you seem to be leading up to is the possibility that the President's assassination was an inside job and a conspiratorial one. If that is so, the problem is indeed fantastically large since, difficult as the assassination would have been to plan and arrange, to cover up must surely have had to be a conspiracy on a gigantic scale. If one writes a science fiction story, one has to be concerned with plausibility in a very special light and the same would apply here. Any hypothesis to explain such a conspiracy would have to be fantastic in its size and intricacy. A fiction writer might say that there was evidence that something about the President so meanted the future of the nation that a group of insiders decided to assassinate him and save their country. Or some other major explanation would have to be hypothesized sufficient to enlist the silent and deadly loyalty and skill of a large number of people in a very public position. It is easier for me to believe in bungled police work, hysterical performance on the part of almost everybody at the time, and the whole incredible mess of misdirections and misperformances that surrounded the assassination of Lincoln (see Philip Van Doren Stern's book on that event) than it is to believe in such a fantastically improbable crime. The mentally deranged sniper is a fairly frequent occurrence in our society and there is always one of them loose in a city like New York and sometimes in country areas as well. Anyway, good luck and I will be fascinated to see what kind of reviews come along.

Cordially,
William Sloane
William Sloane

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