

30 October 1965

Dear Mr Sloane,

Thank you very much for your kind words about the subject index and your good wishes. This letter doesn't require reply but I should like to add just a few comments on the subject of the assassination. I agree with everything you say about the Dallas Police and the enormous difficulties of making a clean-cut case out of three interlinked murders in which the evidence is sometimes baffling uncertain or contradictory. Some of the evidence, on the other hand, is unambiguous. For example, the documents include an affidavit from a former Marine named John Rene Heindel, who served with Oswald, and whose nickname was "Hidell." The affidavit says that Oswald himself may have addressed Heindel as "Hidell;" and it indicates further that Heindel lives in New Orleans, the city where Oswald began to use the name "Hidell" openly, not as an alias but as designating an individual other than himself.

Nevertheless, the Warren Report says repeatedly that Hideℓ was a favorite alias of Oswald's, merely a creation for his own purposes, and that "diligent search has failed to reveal any person in Dallas or New Orleans by that name." Technically true, of course; but the failure of the Report to mention the existence of Heindel-Hidell and the failure of the investigators to determine whether or not he and Oswald were in contact during the latter's stay in New Orleans seems to me most strange. Such obfuscation (and I am using great restraint) cannot be blamed on the Dallas Police. As for a conspiracy, by insiders or others, I haven't gotten that far yet in my thinking—I have been concerned with scrutiny of the Hearings and Exhibits to see if the official case stands up, and have concluded that it does not. It needs reinvestigation to clear up a long list of unexplained and misleading items of evidence. Other theories seem to me no less ~~as~~plausible than that of two lone assassins whose "derangement" had its onset when they pulled the trigger.

Again, thanks and warm good wishes.

Sylvia Meagher