

3 September 1965

Mr. Harold McGraw Jr  
McGraw-Hill Publishers  
330 West 42 Street  
New York, N Y

Dear Mr McGraw,

Mr Samuel Vaughan of the Doubleday Company has been good enough to suggest that I write to you, since your house published an edition of the Warren Report. The assassination of President Kennedy is commanding the attention of scholars in the field of law, government, and many other disciplines. This immense incomprehensible tragedy continues to be of consuming interest to a large segment of the public, as well. Many amateurs, like myself, are undertaking research into the events in Dallas because of strong personal impact and conviction.

The Warren Report and the twenty-six volumes of Hearings and Exhibits provide a massive body of data. It is undeniable, however, that the value of these reference works is greatly impaired by the lack of a subject index. My experience in using the Hearings and Exhibits has been one of frustration and considerable loss of time in hunting through each of the volumes whenever I needed information on a particular aspect of the investigation—without confidence, in the end, that I had actually found every relevant item.

That experience led me to prepare notes which ultimately grew into a highly detailed and comprehensive subject index. Several eminent scholars with whom I have corresponded, including professors at Oxford University and New York University, have indicated their belief that such a subject index would be of enormous value to contemporary students of the assassination and to historians and future researchers. I am convinced that study of the case is gravely handicapped by the lack of such an index. I am desirous of making available to all students of the Hearings and Exhibits the subject index, to which I have devoted some eight months of taxing effort. I hope

that McGraw-Hill will consider the possibility of publishing the index, as a supplement to the Hearings and Exhibits in libraries and centers of learning and research and in the hands of the hundreds of ordinary individuals who purchased these volumes. It is, of course, a highly specialized and technical work but one which is vital as a tool for the present and future understanding of a solemn and historical event without parallel in our time.

I take the liberty of enclosing a list of the subjects, something over four hundred classifications, which are included in the index (with apologies for the imperfection of the photocopies). The citations under each subject incorporate, but extend substantially beyond, the footnotes cited in the Warren Report, and indicate the relevant passages of testimony and the relevant documents found in each of the twenty-six volumes of the Hearings and Exhibits, with indications of the name of the witness and the contents of the key documents.

I shall be grateful for your interest and advice.

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Meagher  
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