

8 September 1965

The Director
American Historical Association
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

The Brookings Institution has suggested that I should write to the Association to seek foundation support for an undertaking on which I am engaged—the preparation of a detailed comprehensive subject index to the Warren Report and twenty-six volumes of Hearings and Exhibits. The assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy is commanding the attention of scholars from many disciplines, whose ranks will grow with the passage of time. This immense, incomprehensible tragedy has had the most profound impact on the nation and its future course. The Warren Commission has provided an enormous body of data, unique in the annals of fact-finding. It is undeniable, however, that the value of the Hearings and Exhibits as reference works is greatly impaired by the lack of a subject index, by means of which the scholar can trace readily all of the available material on any single aspect of the assassination.

My experience with the Hearings and Exhibits has been one of frustration and considerable loss of time. This has led me to work on the preparation of a subject index of more than four hundred classifications. I take the liberty of enclosing the provisional list of subjects, for each of which the index will cite relevant testimony and documents, by volume, encompassing the Report as well as the twenty-six volumes of Hearings and Exhibits. I feel certain that this index can be a tool of profound value to historians and researchers, and that it will be a facilitation to scholars and centers of learning in the comprehension and analysis of overwhelmingly significant events.

I should be very grateful indeed for advice on means by which the index might be published and disseminated.

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Meagher
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(Enclosure)