

Review of ACCESSORIES AFTER THE FACT, written by William O'Connell, Project Co-ordinator for the Pacifica Network on The Warren Report and the Kennedy Assassination.

This review was dictated to Bobbs-Merrill on Wednesday, November 29, 1967 on the phone by Mr. O'Connell in California. He read the review on the radio (WBFK in Los Angeles) on Wednesday, November 22, 1967. In a previous statement on the air, Mr. O'Connell called ACCESSORIES AFTER THE FACT, "A remarkable new book which I now regard as the standard reference work on the subject."

"The excellence of Sylvia Meagher's new book, ACCESSORIES AFTER THE FACT, stems from a quality of mind that has sometimes been absent from previous studies of the assassination and the Warren Report: fairness. Mrs. Meagher has not given us a prosecution manifesto nor an advocate's brief - she's written instead a closed, reasoned narrative that lays before the reader all the essentials of the controversy. She assigns, I think, the proper kind of weight each disputed point ought to have. She tests the credibility of the various witnesses called before the commission and examines the worth and validity of their statements. She seeks to know if a particular witness is reliable, where if it can be ascertained is their collaboration for this or that allegation, what items in those statements may we accept as being true, what we must be skeptical about. It has the effect of putting the reader in the midst of the basic source material to the point where he is able to gain a kind of working knowledge of the case, something almost unattainable in a matter as complex, and labyrinthine as the Warren Report. The thrust of her analysis is that Lee Harvey Oswald was the likely victim of a frame-up in a conspiratorial plot to assassinate the President. The seemingly indestructible "hard core" evidence, the Dallas police, and the Federal agencies presented to implicate the accused assassin is given such a devastating body blow that the 'construct' of the event offered in the report will never again be viable to many who read this book in seeking a fuller explanation of the awful tragedy of November 22, 1963. Without recourse to hyperbole, it is the one essential book on the case."