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## BOOKS IN REVIEW

# In Support of 11 Paragraphs

**ACCESSORIES AFTER THE FACT: The Warren Commission, The Authorities & The Report**, by Sylvia Meagher. 477 pages. Bobbs-Merrill \$8.50.

Reviewed by  
**DAVID F. DONNELLY JR.**

Sylvia Meagher would probably be a completely credible assassination theorist — if she chose to be a fulltime theorist — but she approaches her self-appointed task as a critic of the Warren Commission Report on the slaying of President John F. Kennedy as a professional historian.

The author of "Accessories After the Fact" began delving into the commission's work by indexing all 26 volumes of the much-criticized report. The result, a somewhat-unheralded 150-page subject index published in 1964, formed the basis for many, if not

all, of the subsequent volumes attacking the report.

This time Miss Meagher carried her work one step further. She has now painstakingly documented the numerous loopholes, contradictions and other sins of omission or commission in the report.

Her detail is fantastic. The book taken in its entirety is a scathing indictment of the commission's investigation. Yet only in the epilogue does Miss Meagher call directly, in a scant 11 paragraphs, for a new and independent investigation of the assassination in the framework of an adversary proceeding.

And only once in the entire volume, again in a dozen paragraphs, does Miss Meagher depart from her historical approach and speculate about (perhaps she actually postulates) a new assassination theory. In this, Miss Meagher

suggests that Cuban counter-revolutionaries may have plotted the assassination because of a deep hatred for President Kennedy and used a man who resembled Oswald to fire one or more of the shots.

Bizarre? Perhaps, but the theory or postulate can be and is backed up by documentation as is everything else in the book.

Much of Miss Meagher's work, however, is far more mundane. One chapter, for example, is devoted to conflicts among witnesses on the locations of scraps from a chicken lunch found on the sixth-floor of the Book Depository in Dallas.

More pages still are spent on developing information critical of the manner in which the investigation was handled by the Dallas Police Department and federal agencies involved. Miss Meagher's

effort is more detailed and broader in scope than others on the same subject but she seems to be adding little material of current interest, although this criticism supports her plea for a new investigation.

And there is an overriding drawback. The publisher chose type about the size of that used in most newspapers' classified advertisements. This, needless to say, makes reading a bit difficult.

Yet Leo Sauvage, in an introduction to the book, says Miss Meagher has come the closest of any assassination author to writing a "reference" work. This she attempted and this she has achieved, excellently.

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