

25 March 1968

The Editors
The New Republic
1244 19th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Sirs,

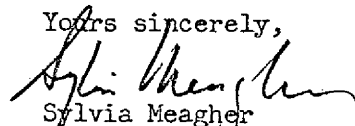
Alexander M. Bickel ("Still At It" of March 23rd NR) finds "only one weak spot" in John Sparrow's attack on critics of the Warren Report. That is like saying that a child with measles has only one spot on his skin.

Sparrow was already pontificating in defense of the Warren Report in late 1964, before the main critical work was published; and his response to the massive and irrefutable evidence of the Report's fraudulence, which the critics have placed before the public, has been to stand pat on the side of the Warren Commission. He has not even troubled to read--as he has himself acknowledged--much less to refute some of the works he denounces; and his quotations out of context from the critical literature are as nastily dishonest as some of the Commission's citations from testimony. His "elegance" notwithstanding, Sparrow has merely joined the coterie of apologists for the Warren Report who seek to divert attention from its collapse by the cheap trick of perjoratives against its critics ("scavengers," "profiteers," "demonologists," etc.).

Even Bickel, whose distaste for the critics has led him to employ appalling and grotesque characterizations (attributing "mindlessness" to Leo Sauvage, for example, a first-generation critic whose intellectual credentials and impeccable logic are awesome--which says much about Bickel, if nothing about Sauvage)--even Bickel finds that Sparrow has been a bit too easy on the Commission. Sparrow allows the possibility that Oswald may have had a single accomplice. Bickel, by implication, concedes that worse things may have slipped past the Commission. And how do they react to these horrifying possibilities? The one launches a mendacious and vilifying campaign against the critics whose labors produced these realizations, while the other applauds the elegance of this intellectual and moral abdication.

Well, I leave these gentlemen to their mutual congratulations and self-satisfaction. Those who wish to judge for themselves who is really mindless and who is really scavenging (or worse) need only study the published work of the serious critics and researchers, and compare it with the "work" of the elegant Warden of All Souls and his kind.

Yours sincerely,


Sylvia Meagher
302 West 12 Street
New York, N.Y. 10014