

ASSASSINATION INQUIRY COMMITTEE
4718 Saratoga Avenue
San Diego, California 92107
October 3, 1968

Mrs. Sylvia Meagher
302 West 12th Street
New York, New York 10014

Dear Mrs. Meagher:

First, I should like to apologize for not replying earlier to your letters of July 25, July 26, and August 19. Professional obligations, as well as preparation of arrangements for a forthcoming trip here by Harold Weisberg, have left me little time for many important matters too long neglected, foremost among these being attention to your extensive comments and criticisms.

In your second letter you noted with disgust and shock Prescott Nichols' description of Edgar E. Bradley as a "right-wing Christian anti-communist", and his follow-up, "We'll let that speak for itself". As regards his description, it should be emphasized that Nichols defined Bradley's posture in Bradley's own terms. Bradley and the official publication of the organization for which he is West Coast representative both refer autobiographically to "Christian anti-communism", and Bradley would be the last person in North Hollywood to eschew the label "right-wing". That aside, I suspect that you are most concerned anyway with professor Nichols' editorial note, letting the descriptions speak for themselves. I do not feel that his remark merits your biting retort, a "shameless demagogic smear... character assassination of a crude and ugly nature". Your characterization of Nichols is too severe, isn't it? Certainly you are more abrasive in your ad hominum attack toward Nichols than is Nichols toward Bradley. After all, isn't the definition of a man as a shameless demagogue and character assassin more acrid than Nichols' (I thought) rather gentle remarks vis a vis Bradley.

Your comments regarding Popkin's remarks arrived after our last Newsletter was already in the mail. We are printing your reply of August 19 in our next issue, which should arrive in New York within the week. We value your comments immensely. Dr. Popkin is now in Europe and will be away for a few more months. When he returns, I will personally deliver your letter to him.

Mrs. Meagher, we are truly interested in learning the truth about the assassination and publishing the same. Some of the material we print may be unfactual and speculative, or true but unrelated to the crime. We are forced into this position because of our obvious inability to do all our own investigating and research. We therefore rely on the work of others. We anticipate that major errors and biases will be corrected in the interplay of ideas between ourselves

and others. We thus welcome your comments, biting though they sometimes are, because we recognize your stature among the critics and your honest position in the whole matter. Still, you must allow that you now have a strong anti-Garrison bias, the full basis of which we do not entirely understand.

What makes "the allegations and testimony of Russo and Bundy inherently bereft of credibility"? Is "P.O.19106" a central feature of Garrison's case? Is it not possible for a man's thesis to be basically correct, even if part of the basis for his conclusion is faulty? Are you sure Clay Shaw is not Clay Bertrand, even in view of the possibility that Shaw gave "Bertrand" as an alias, as stated on police records compiled on 3/1/67 at the time of his arrest? Is it not likely that Garrison has evidence against Shaw not yet made public? Is it not possible that Shaw was one of the conspirators? Shouldn't Garrison, as a duly elected District Attorney, be allowed to prosecute a case of conspiracy to commit murder without interference from federal forces, critics of the Warren Report critics, and even the critics themselves. I for one feel the issue ought to be aired in court, where legal safeguards of a sort prevail, rather than in the public arena, where too often there is opportunity for obfuscation and unanswerable allegation, plus half-truths and untruths to numerous to challenge.

Again, thank you for your contribution and we hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely yours,

A. George Abbott, M.D.

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