

21 July 1966

Dear Menachem,

Hal Verb's book "review" is more of a book digest---completely uncritical and reproducing many of the serious factual errors found in the original. (I had called some of those errors to Penn Jones' attention before his articles appeared in book form but he did not alter the original text.) I do not consider Penn's book a work of serious scholarship, if truth be told, although I greatly admire him for his peppery courage and outspokenness and his tangles with the John Birch Society; and I suspect that to focus on this series of strange deaths, just at the moment when we are finally witnessing serious debate on the autopsy findings and other direct evidence, will do little to ~~man~~ advance the position and may boomerang by reason of the sensational and as yet uncertain meaning of these peripheral deaths. I believe that these curious events by no means should be ignored; but until there is more definite evidence about the relationship of these deaths and these crimes to the primary three murders, they should not receive more than a footnote, figuratively speaking, in the main exposition of the case against the Warren Report.

Mainly for those reasons, I would be disinclined to publish this book review in whole or in part.

I should like to mention some of the serious inaccuracies in the manuscript, most of which are lifted from the book by Penn Jones, for your own information and, if you wish to take the trouble, for that of Hal Verb when you write him. (However, I should prefer it if my name does not enter into it, since I believe that Verb and I have at least one mutual friend in California who wants to get us together on the case.)

(1) It is not true as stated on the second page of the book review that Jim Martin, Senator's friend, was Marina Oswald's business manager. Her business manager was James Herbert Martin (who did testify before the Commission, early and at great length) while Senator's lawyer-friend is Wilfred James ("Jim") Martin. Any careful student of the documents would have checked that out as soon as the Hearings and Exhibits were released (the Warren Report does give the misleading impression that the two Martins are the same man).

(2) The assertion that Karen Bennett Carlin ("Little Lynn") is the Teresa Norton who died of gunshot wounds in a motel is utterly unfounded. Mrs. Carlin, as I recall, was giving testimony to a Commission lawyer on 8/24/64, the very day of death of Teresa Norton.

(3) The Warren Report does contain the autopsy report for JFK, contrary to the statement in the manuscript. The autopsy report on Oswald is contained in the Hearings and Exhibits (CE 1981 in Volume XXIV). Only the Tippit autopsy is missing (apparently it can be seen now in the Archives in Washington).

(4) The statement that Thayer Waldo in his testimony indicated "police complicity in the murder of Oswald" is far too strong; he did call attention to the peculiar and even suspicious manner of Lt. Butler, and the Commission did ignore his report.

I hope my comments will be of assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Sylvia Meagher