

3 December 1971

Mr. Redger Hayne
75 School Street
Cambridge 02139

Dear Mr. Hayne,

Not sent

Unfortunately I have little information and less time at my disposal to respond to the questions you posed in your letter of 30 November 1971. You are welcome to anything that I recall or have at my fingertips but much of my material is packed away and stored and I could not possibly spare the time to dig out my notes or press clippings.

On Charles Batcheler I find only a notation that he died of cancer early in 1970, but no indication of the source of that information—it may have been verbal but I no longer recall. S.M. Holland died on 29 April 1969 of natural causes, according to item in the Midlothian Mirror. An obituary for Arthur Mandella appeared in the New York Post of April 30, 1968, age 41, no cause of death given, to the best of my recollection.

I have no information on Cliff Roberts. The references to Dave Lane and Alfred McClain in the Hearings intrigued me so much that I wrote to Earl Warren in 1965 asking for information on these two men but received only a note from his secretary referring me to the transcript of testimony which had occasioned my request for information! (Again, as I recall it.) I even searched the obituaries in the Dallas Morning News on microfilm at the Newspaper Library on West 43rd Street but as I did not have the dates of death I found nothing.

Nor do I have any information on David Goldstein beyond what appears in my book. Penn Jones was the source of my information on his death in 1965, date unknown. Goldstein's assistance to the FBI is mentioned in an affidavit of 13 August 1964 which is published in Volume VII of the Hearings, page 594, indicating that he helped FBI agents locate the company that sold the revolver allegedly used to shoot Tippit.

The only information I have on Bill Chesher is from the testimony of Dallas police officer William S. Biggie in XV pages 48-51, the essential points of which are mentioned in my book. The connection with Ruby, or alleged connection, is too lengthy and complicated to summarize here; I suggest that you read Biggie's testimony.

Penn Jones is the source of the reference to Teresa Norton in my book. I do not accept his contention that she is actually Karen Carlin. I have no information of any kind on the death of Buddy Walthers. I did have press clippings on the suicide of Crispin Curriel Gonzalez after he had alleged knowledge of a conspiracy in the RFK case but I do not find them at hand and cannot take time to hunt for them. Finally, on Levens, my

source was verbal information from a contact in Texas. According to my notes, he was 32-34 years old, died on 5 November 1966, of natural causes, and supposedly strongly resembled Oswald. After my book was published, I had further experience with the contact who told me about Levens which caused me to question that person's judgment and accuracy. In retrospect, I would now disregard the Levens death, since I have no published account of it nor any reason to link him with the assassination.

Turning now to my letter of 27 March 1970 to Edmund Berkeley which I just extracted from my files, after having written all the preceding portion of this letter, I find that I have therein identified the source of the Levens information and specified the source of information on the death of Charles Batchelor which I had meanwhile completely forgotten. The same is true for Crispin Curiel Gonzalez and I wonder why you did not consult the book Special Unit Senator instead of asking me for information I had already given Berkeley in a letter which you had at your disposal.

Now that I have re-read my letter of 27 March 1970 and recall how much time and labor it required, I am certainly sorry that I did not look at it before attempting to answer your questions in the order they appeared in your letter. Had I done so, I would have said that I had nothing to add, and saved the time which has already gone into this reply to your letter.

In closing, let me mention that I would prefer not to be credited with research into the deaths of witnesses, although anyone is at liberty to refer to my published work. I appreciate the generosity of your offer but am not anxious to be associated with material published in Computers & Automation, which has presented some highly irresponsible articles on the assassination.

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Meagher
302 West 12 Street
New York 10014