



Dept. of Classics
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY
KINGSTON, ONTARIO

30 April 1968

Dear Mrs. Meagher:

Thanks for your letter of 24 April in reply to my brief note.

I welcome your invitation to write to you, for although there is probably very little that I can do for you, you may in time be able to do a great deal for me. Let me tell you a little about myself before I go further.

I am an American, 34 years old, married, 2 daughters, and have been living in Canada for the past three years. I was born and raised in Trenton, N.J., spent about 6 years in NY City as an art student; went to Hunter College, and graduate school at Cornell. When I left Cornell I came to Kingston, where I teach Latin and Greek.

It was not until about a year ago that the issue of the assassination "grabbed" me. Before that time I felt that I had no reason to doubt either the methods or the conclusions of the Report. I trusted implicitly in the integrity of my government (isn't that our duty as Americans?) and defended the Report as loyally as any of the Administration's hacks. I trusted the press who assured me that the critics of the Report were either madmen or opportunists. So, God bless America. When I read Epstein's Inquest I entered that Limbo wherein I could assure myself that even though the Report was wrong, it was right-- or at least wrong for the right reasons. There was nothing to worry about, and we were all right. Lane's Playboy interview bothered the Hell out of me, though; it got me started on a process that led gradually to a complete collapse of Faith.

It was all the more shocking to me because I did not realize how much I loved my country until I left her, nor how proud I could be to call myself an American. That all happened after I left the States, but before I got on to the assassination.

Since ~~last~~ February of last year I have read everything that I could get my hands on-- including most of the Testimony and Exhibits. My bibliography includes all of the major books that have been written on the assassination, and every magazine article that I ~~would~~ could lay my eyes on.

When I read Garrison's Playboy interview I began really to fret, for before that time I was convinced that the Report was fraudulent, but I did not know why such respected individuals and institutions had perpetrated such a massive hoax over an issue that was so important to us. I was willing to believe that there was some good motive for the fraud-- I was ridig on a wave of Trust, that evil goddess.



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Well, Trust has taken her leave of me, and so, for that matter, has Apathy. I wrung my hands and fretted silently and grieved for months-- finally, I decided to relieve my troubled soul with a public lecture on what I had learned about the assassination. I contacted the History Club here at Queen's, and together with some of my own students we secured a large hall, and advertized the date of the lecture, March 6-- my catharsis. Title: The Assassination of the Warren Report: Justifiable Homicide?

It was a magnificent success-- for me personally, because finally I had had an opportunity to empty my soul of the filth that had been accumulating there; and for the public, because finally they had a bitter taste of truth.

I had expected a large turnout, but far more came than I had anticipated; the amount of interest was phenomenal. The lecture hall seated three hundred, but the aisles were bursting with bodies. I lectured, showed exhibits and fielded questions continuously for two hours, took a recess for 5 minutes to allow people gratuitously to leave (most remained) and then continued fielding questions for another 2 hours. I was exhausted, physically and emotionally-- but free at last, free at last.

Considering the response that I have encountered since the lecture, I am sure that most of the audience went away not asking themselves whether the Report was right, or even whether it was wrong for the right reasons; they only wondered how the perpetrators supposed that they could get away with such a blatant fraud. There were emotional moments in the course of the discussion (it was, after all, a confession of my own shame), but for the most part I stuck to reasonable arguments about what was known. The material was presented in a reasonable manner, my response was emotional-- but most people acknowledged that it was a human response in the light of my origins and of the facts surrounding the case.

What I am getting at is this. I surprised myself no less than my audience at how well the lecture came off. I was aware that I knew the topic thoroughly, but I was not sure whether I could adequately reveal the situation to so many people almost extemporaneously (for the most part I talked without notes, and the lecture was scheduled on such short notice that I was not able to organize it beforehand-- unexpectedly, this turned out to be the best feature of the lecture). I found not only that I could speak for extended periods of time without prompting or preparation, but also that I could field questions almost indefinitely (it was exhaustion, mine and that of the audience) that brought the evening to a close.

Since the lecture I have appeared on radio and TV here in Kingston, and have talked to various individuals and small groups.

I am now confident that I can do it, and do it well, so I have decided to try to carry these talks outside of Kingston. That decision is fortuitously timed, for I have come in contact with another individual in Canada who has been working on the assassination for a good deal longer than I have, and ~~and~~



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his name is
Gary Murr
R.R. 1
Hoffport, Ontario

unlike me, he has done some important independent research. He is interested in forming a Canadian version Of the Citizen's Committee of Inquiry, but apparently could not find or develop sufficient interst in the topic. I can. In the Fall I plan to set up public lectures at various universities within easy traveling distance of Kingston. The interest is there, I am sure, but people do not know where to go for information, and, thanks to the national press, are confused about the issues or simply distrustful of the critics.

I got a late start on this, but my efforts since last year have been intense, so I am just about caught up. I have been thinking of doing some independent work on the assassination, but that will have to wait at least until I finish my Ph.D. thesis this summer. Besides, I have pressing responsibilities with my teaching job. For the time being, I am going to devote myself to spreading information via lectures and interviews.

I do not know what I can ask of you. Primarily I am interested in securing information of any kind (mostly I get this out of the Report, Hearings, and books by the critics) and good copies of certain important photographs. I have been in touch with Gary Murr only by letter and do not yet know whether he can help me.

Really, all I want is "in". For a year I have been looking "in" from the outside-- just learning what is going on-- and, until my lecture, I was troubled by a sense of impotence. Now I know that I can do something-- perhaps in the long run it will be more valuable than trying to develop new evidence, for the public can be convinced by the evidence that is now available. It is certain that the press will not give it to them.

Just let me keep a channel open to you; from time to time I shall want help. I am in touch with Weisberg by letter and with a friend of mine who has done some work with Josiah Thompson. That's the extent of my contacts.

It is possible that I shall be comming to New York sometime during the summer. May I plesse visit you for a few hours? I shall be comming down for another purpose than to see you, but if I do come to New York, may I advise you a few weeks in advance when I will be there, and whether it will be possible for me to see you then? I regret that there is nothing at this point that I can do for you, but there may be much that you can do for me.

You may plagiarize "mini-buff", "maxi-buff" or any "buff" you please.

Still,
Dick Bernabei
Dick Bernabei