

24 April 1968

Mr. Richard Bernabei
Department of Classics
Queen's University
Kingston, Ontario

Dear Mr. Bernabei,

Thank you very much for your letter of the 5th, received today. You were very kind to take the trouble of copying out passages from the testimony and exhibits.

You have made an excellent argument against any attempt to suggest that Victoria Adams ran down the back stairway of the Book Depository "about ten minutes after the shooting." The problem is, the Commission in its cunning avoided the explicit and suggested with calculated vagueness merely that Miss Adams must have come down the stairs later than she thought. On the assumption that she was only two minutes or so off the mark, she could have used the back stairs at, say, 12:33, run to the railroad yard, returned to the Book Depository, and still have heard the 12:38 message on the police radio.

Shelley and Lovelady, of course, testified that some time elapsed—perhaps some eight or ten minutes, adding up their time estimates for the series of movements in which they supposedly accompanied each other—before they returned to the interior of the Book Depository. If the Commission is challenged on the ground that Victoria Adams had returned from the railroad yard area in time to hear the 12:38 police broadcast, it can merely reply that she must then have been mistaken about seeing Shelley and Lovelady upon running down from the fourth floor and that they, after all, did not remember seeing her. (Note how carefully they testified on this score, not denying but merely "not remembering" and therefore not subject to perjury charges if Miss Adams' version was unexpectedly corroborated by some belated witness or evidence.)

I don't know if I have made my reasoning clear but in essence what seems to me to be the situation is that the 12:38 broadcast leaves the conflict still unresolved, in essence, and resolvable in the Commission's favor. The strongest attack still seems to me to be the contradiction between the sworn affidavits signed by Shelley and Lovelady on November 22nd, and the fortuitous new version of their alleged movements after the shots given by both men when they testified some months later, each with such fidelity to the other's account and such helpfulness to the Commission's prosecution of the accused.

Your "mini-buff" is witty and I intend to plagiarize it. Please do write again when you have time or inclination.

Yours very sincerely,

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