

August 30, 1968

Mr. Thomas Bethell
638 Royal Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

Dear Tom Bethell:

It is with considerable disappointment that I write to say that my reaction to your project is negative. The reasons are complicated, and I can't be absolutely certain that my own biases don't enter into the situation.

First there is the matter of the previous books, which while not overwhelming remains discouraging. Of equal bearing are my responses to your biases, and the weakening effect I feel these biases have upon the project as a whole. It seems to me that you are using your criticism of the Garrison investigation to try to support the Warren Report, and to a surprising degree. Several chapters seem to be included mainly to discredit not only Garrison but anyone who does not agree with the conclusions of the Report.

Now, I do not mean to imply that you need to disagree with the Warren Commission in order to criticise Garrison, but merely to ask that you use the same critical standards. For example, the chapter on the NBC and CBS Specials: How can you not criticise CBS (and, perhaps, therefore support Garrison?) For saying that although the bullet did not penetrate all the geletin it could have, and for not showing the bullet. Sure the bullet could have and sure it might have survived unmarred, but did it? The "transistorised" people are honestly crazy. What is CBS? This is only one example; I have similar misgivings about many other statements in the outline, especially in the Archives chapter and the C.I.A. chapter.

I'm sorry that I can't be more helpful. I did enjoy meeting you, and would hope that we can meet again - perhaps to argue about these concerns.

Regards,

Robert M. Ockene
Editor

RO/rm