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Congressman John V. Lindsay
30 West 44 Street
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Lindsay,

You may remember our exchange of letters about a year ago regarding the amendment of the Social Security Law with respect to U.S. citizens employed at the United Nations and the specialized agencies. I appreciated very much your quick understanding of the inequities involved and your indication that you would seek a revision. It was particularly gratifying to see an item a few weeks ago reporting that you had introduced an amendment which would make participation optional rather than mandatory. I should like to thank you very sincerely for following up on this matter, as well as for your distinguished record of service and leadership.

However, that is not my reason for writing at this time. One week ago today bigotry and evil, tolerated for so long, came to a horrifying climax with the assassination of the President. Two days later the alleged murderer was himself slain, while in handcuffs, in the custody of police officers who were too preoccupied with watching themselves on the television monitor to spare a glance in the direction of the sordid hanger-on with the gun. I need not expatiate on this too long: I heard your conversation with Barry Gray and share the anguish, alarm and outrage which you expressed.

It has been reassuring to learn tonight that a Presidential Commission has been appointed, headed by Chief Justice Warren, to make a full investigation of all the facts. I hope that you will not consider it presumptuous, but I have been so struck by the anomalies and contradictions in the evidence thus far reported by the Dallas police and in the press that I thought that I should list them. If the forthcoming report by the FBI fails to clarify any of these questions, it might be useful if the Presidential Commission pursues a full

... and determines if the anomaly or contradiction resulted from inadvertent error or misunderstanding, or from deliberate falsification or collusion. These are the questions which create not only perplexity but an unavoidable suspicion of the motives and methods of the police authorities involved.

1. Oswald is said to have been under surveillance and intensive investigation by the FBI for three years (Morgan Beatty, NBC radio, 29 November 1963). Why did not the Secret Service or the FBI check him during the routine security preparations in advance of the President's trip to Dallas?
2. The Dallas police claim that they found communist literature in Oswald's room but his landlady had never seen it before. The room was said to be "hardly larger than a closet" (LIFE, 29 November 1963, page 39). Was that literature planted? The New Orleans public library reported that during the summer Oswald borrowed a number of anti-communist books (NY Times, 28 November, page 1) and a public stenographer in Dallas says that Oswald engaged her last year to type an anti-Soviet book he claimed he was writing (Huntley-Brinkley news programme, NBC-TV, 29 November).
3. The Dallas police announced that they had decisive evidence of Oswald's guilt in a diagram of the route of the President's motorcade on which the trajectory of the murder bullet had been drawn, which they said they had found in Oswald's room. On November 26, two or three days after this report was made public, Dallas District Attorney Henry Wade "said a map of the assassination scene, reportedly found by police in Oswald's room, did not exist." (National Guardian, 28 November, page 9).
4. Wade said in a televised press conference on 24 November that Oswald's palm-print had been found on the murder weapon. The FBI, which checked the weapon, said no readable print was found on it (National Guardian, 28 November, page 9).
5. LIFE Magazine of 29 November reported (page 38) that as a Marine, Oswald had made only average scores as a marksman but that he had joined a rifle club during his stay in the Soviet Union and had become "an expert marksman." What is the source of this statement? I do not think that LIFE has access to the records of a rifle club in the Soviet Union. What is the actual evidence that Oswald was in fact an expert marksman?

The evidence cited by the Dallas police was that Oswald had made a hurried visit to the suburb where his wife lived and picked up his rifle, which was kept in the garage. The next morning the men who drove him to work noticed that he carried a long thin parcel, which Oswald said was window-shades. LIFE Magazine for 29 November reported (page 39) that Oswald had visited his wife in Irving, a suburb of Dallas, for the weekend of 15-17 November and that "when he left to return to work...that was the last his wife saw of him until he was under arrest." (Emphasis added.)

If LIFE is correct and the Dallas police are wrong, this would seem to raise very grave questions indeed about the latter's purpose in broadcasting to the public and to the world evidence which was both false and calculated to create a certainty of Oswald's guilt.

7. Was Oswald actually living in Texas when the mail-order rifle was delivered?
8. Did he apply personally for the post-office box he is said to have rented under a pseudonym? If so, was he required to give two character references (as is true in most post-offices) and which names did he give?
9. How conclusive is the evidence that the handwriting in the letter ordering the rifle was Oswald's? How many, and which, handwriting experts were consulted?
10. Was Oswald a cigarette smoker? Cigarettes as well as chicken were said to have been found in the sixth-floor room from which the shots were fired.
11. The Dallas police announced that they would do paraffin tests of Oswald's hands and his cheek. Subsequently they announced that the tests were positive for the hands. Was the test of the cheek negative? If so, why did the Dallas police withhold this?

Please forgive me for having taxed you with such a long letter. I hope that all these mysteries will be cleared away. Above all, I hope that the ugly fever of hatred and violence in this country will recede before the awful devastation and the overwhelming tragedy the country has just suffered—though I am sad to say that I have not yet seen any evidence of it.

Yours most sincerely,

Sylvia Meagher