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Mr. Carey McWilliams  
Editor  
THE NATION  
333 Sixth Avenue  
New York City 10014

Dear Mr. McWilliams,

The editorial, "Focus on Chapter V," in the current issue indicates that Herbert Packer will provide a critical analysis of the Warren Commission report in a later issue. I look forward to that with considerable interest.

While I agree with the general views expressed in your editorial on Chapter V, I am rather astonished that you content yourself with a mild reprimand to the press because it has become far too dependent for information on the police and other officials and because in the Oswald case it did not "dig hard enough for the facts."

In actuality the role played by the press throughout this investigation and even now after the publication of the Warren Commission report is more sinister than you suggest. The Commission acknowledged that various publications had "retouched" the famous photograph with which Oswald thoughtfully provided posterity, showing him with the murder rifle and revolver as well as The Worker and the Militant—something which is not even mentioned in your editorial.

But the Commission accepted the bland explanation of the publications involved that the retouching had been for the purpose of "clarifying the lines of the rifle and other details" and (disengenuously, in my opinion) ignored the fact that both NEWSWEEK and the NEW YORK TIMES had "retouched" the photograph by eliminating completely the telescopic sight on the rifle. In the context of the evidence as it appeared at the time of that deliberate alteration and misrepresentation, the elimination of the telescopic sight can only be interpreted as a conscious attempt to mislead the public, to support the official version of the assassination, and to create a climate in which everyone would take Oswald's guilt as proven, at a time when evidence and testimony were still being sought.

That the press should have committed this outrageous falsification in the first place, and that the Warren Commission has failed to expose it, and that not a single one of the media—including THE NATION—has seen fit to confront the public with the facts of this deliberate deception, perturb me keenly. It is especially disappointing that THE NATION has shied away from this ugly performance and has pontificated on the secondary sins of the news media.

Yours sincerely,

SYLVIA MEAGHER