

INTER-COMPANY CORRESPONDENCE

HOWARD W. SAMS • BOBBS MERRILL • IMPLEMENT & TRACTOR • S. T. I.

Sylvia
Wade back

From: Ockene

Date: 1/13

Copies: Sylvia Meagher

To: Verne Moberg

Subject: ACCESSORIES AFTER THE FACT: The Warren Commission, The Authorities, and The Report.

Verne--

is 1/2 of the work - through p 221

One major point to keep in mind is that Sylvia Meagher sometimes assumes that the events and people involved are still fresh in everybody's minds. Since they're not, several chapters may need introductory paragraphs to sketch in the background; I've marked a couple; you may find more.

Insult, gratuitous and non-relevant slurs, liable and slander should be removed. I've done a lot, there will be more. I do not mean to disarm the book, merely to avoid personal conflicts and illegalities. Anyway, more often than not, the actions of the people cursed speak for themselves. Further, we must keep in mind the distinctions between accusations which are documented in the text and which are relevant, and allegations which are not documented, along with insults, ~~and~~ slander and liable, and invective. ~~There are~~

Oswald is to be considered possibly innocent, no more, no less at all times. No statement should be made positively unless it is documented within the text, or presented as opinion (again, avoid the illegal). Also, in S.M.'s hypothetical examples she may write "What if Ruby, for instance, visited Oswald at such and such a time." (My fantasy not hers, although I eliminated two or three similar instances). These ~~examples~~ should all go, for obvious reasons. (Example, page 123, last paragraph).

There remains the problem of overstatement--both in individual words and possibly the kind pointed out by Leo Sauvage at the end of his report (at this writing I am not up to that section, or I could be more helpful.) In the case of the former, words, unload them or delete.

Similar to the instances of verbal (as opposed to content) overstatement, are the fairly frequent use of several words which sometimes combine overstatement with wrong usage. The following words appear fairly frequently, ~~with~~ sometimes misused: cynical, sinister, ominous, conformity, perversion, indecent, lies (for misrepresentation, for example). Not a major problem, but there.

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Subject: ACCESSORIES (cont.)

S.M. has used an editorial we--change to I except where she is speaking of we as the public (rhetorical) or we being she and the reader.

* Caution on the Hidell chapter -- as noted, I ~~am~~ have misgivings.

Part of the forward, on the press, will be placed in the appendix. I've marked. See if you agree.

I've worked on the forward very heavily, so you can follow the kinds of changes I made. I'm sure I got foggy from time to time later and probably missed some things.

I can't stress enough the need to query anything which is not clear to you. I know enough about the circumstances and the criticisms to fill in something that might be missing/ automatically.

BW

Sybil -

I added that it was alright for her
to call you with questions. If
not, scream.

* S - I'm sure you'll want to scream at me for this.