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July 3, 1968

The Honorable Robert Wood
Under Secretary
Department of Housing & Urban Development
Washington, D.C.

Dear Bob:

I write you as a citizen rather than a friend and publisher. One of my colleagues in the Trade Department, Bob Ockene, is anxious to have Ted Kennedy take a look at ACCESSORIES AFTER THE FACT: The Warren Commission, The Authorities & The Report by Sylvia Meagher. Bob feels that Ted is one of the few people who could force the administration to reopen the investigation of the murder of JFK. He feels, and I agree with him, that the "faceless" assassin's propoganda is, in many ways, crucial in regard to many aspects of American life. Further, Ockene is not only Sylvia Meagher's publisher but also her good friend. He thinks that her book has much to say on its subject, and is worthy of study by Senator Kennedy. (Of course, Ted may know it thoroughly.)

I have not read the book. In fact, most of the stuff written about the JFK assassination was most distasteful to me as I felt many publishers, as well as authors, were after a quick buck. Ockene assures me that this isn't the case with Miss Meagher, and as I hold Ockene in high regard I told him that I was willing to write you and call this particular book to your attention.

You can judge whether to call it to Teddy's attention. Be assured, Bob, that neither Bob Ockene or I are trying to seek an endorsement from the Senator or press something on him beyond taste and reason. Perhaps Ockene puts this feeling better than I in a memo to me:

The Honorable Robert Wood

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"Two months ago I would have felt as if I were exposing my own paranoia lewdly by making such a statement (the crucialness of the subject of faceless assassins) in the context of a memo like this. No longer; the embarrassment is easy to afford."

I hear you plan to return to MIT in the fall. I look forward to a visit with you soon.

Sincerely,



William H.Y. Hackett, Jr.
Vice President

WHYH:sc

P.S. The Meagher book is on its way to you by other mail.