

28 August 1971

Mr Jim Lesar
Committee to Investigate Assassinations
927 15th Street NW - Suite 409
Washington DC 20005

Dear Jim,

Thank you for your letter of the 17th, which I received at Fire Island. I have no objection to the reprinting of my article on Charles Givens in pamphlet form, if you decide to proceed with that idea, although it may be necessary for you to get permission from The Texas Observer, which I believe holds the copyright.

Thank you also for sending me the xerox copy of the Sputnik article "New Facts about the Dallas Tragedy". I note that it is a continuation, to be followed by further installments. If you have or obtain these and consider that they are also of interest, I hope that you will be able to let me see copies.

As you correctly said, the Sputnik article does not bear any Joesten stigmata, being of distinctly higher quality and sophistication, although the author's roster of WR critics seems to include only such compatible souls as said Joesten, Lane, and Buchanan. At first glance the article seems reasonable and supported by citations of sources. But it contains assertions which are distinctly and I believe knowingly misleading.

The major example of misrepresentation is found on page 115, middle of column 2, which states that the New York Times "ran an open letter addressed to Earl Warren" and summarizes the contents. That letter was in actual fact a paid advertisement by M.S. Arnoni, then editor of the now defunct magazine The Minority of One, and reflected Arnoni's views and not at all the editorial position of the New York Times.

I also question the second and third paragraphs on page 111, asserting that LBJ wanted a commission composed solely of Texans, and that he wished to publish the FBI Summary Report without first showing it to RFK. Whether or not that information in fact appeared in Manchester's book (I do not recall that it did and begrudge the time it would take to check it, since the book contains numerous flagrant errors of fact and at least one deliberate and very serious falsification -- see my review of The Death of a President, "After the Battle, the Book", in the June 1967 issue of The Minority of One, and a later article by Edward Jay Epstein exposing Manchester's invention on the subject of an examination of the autopsy X-rays and photos), the record shows clearly that LBJ and his cohorts did everything possible to block a Texas court of inquiry. That story is detailed in my article "Wheels Within Deals" in The Minority of One of July 1968. (From 1964 through 1968 The Minority of One published many articles, by various writers, on the assassination and the WR, which should be in the Committee's library for reference purposes. I believe that Mary Ferrell and perhaps Harold Weisberg may have complete collections; my own are in bound volumes.)

The record also shows that RFK, far from intending to raise any fuss about the WR, much less actually doing so, angrily and adamantly vouched for it only weeks before he himself was assassinated, even going so far as to claim falsely that he had read every document in the Archives, which he surely had not done. This took place at a public rally when he was campaigning in California.

Bud Fensterwald also sent me a copy of the Sputnik article with an outline of a 1967 article by Pierre and Renee Gosset. Please thank him for me, for that material and for his gratifying remarks about my Givens article. Best regards and renewed thanks,

Sincerely,