

26 March 1965

Miss Lillian Castellano
8636 Lookout Mountain Avenue
Hollywood 46
California

Dear Miss Castellano,

I was most happy to receive your letter last night and very interested to learn that Oswald had charged twice on Friday night that he was a patsy. The deletion of that statement is very significant. The deletion was made not by the networks alone but in my opinion by the Warren Commission in the relevant exhibits containing transcripts of TV and radio tapes. You are probably aware already that William Whaley, the taxi driver, testified that Oswald charged that he was being railroaded during the lineup on Saturday. And, most significant in my opinion, are the reports by two witnesses--Brewer and a police officer whose name eludes me (I don't have my notes available just now)--that as Oswald was being dragged out of the Texas Theater he shouted repeatedly, "I am not resisting arrest."

I intend to contact Mr. Corson at the first opportunity and ask to see the copies of your correspondence with the Warren Commission.

As you say, it is heartening to know that other people, however few or distant, are also refusing to accept or be silent about the Warren Report. I have been utterly sceptical about the official case since early Friday afternoon, November 22nd, when I said with irony that a leftist or pro-Castro assassin would undoubtedly ~~be~~ found--and only an hour or so later heard with disbelief with a man named Oswald had been arrested for the crime. I followed all the news of the case from that moment onwards, attended several of Mark Lane's lectures, read the Buchanan and Joesten books, and wrote letters to various officials, to no avail. When the Warren Report was issued in September, I dropped everything from that moment onwards and concentrated on a very critical study of the Report. In November I wrote a 15,000-word article attacking the findings, which I was not able to place for publication. I withdrew that article as soon as I received the 26 volumes, the day before Thanksgiving, and began a painstaking search of all the testimony and exhibits. It was appalling to find how many of the Commission's statements were unsupportable or even completely contradicted by the testimony and/or exhibits. I began to list what is now a long series of deliberate misrepresentations, omissions, distortions, and other defects demonstrating not only extreme bias, incompetence, and carelessness but irrefutable instances of dishonesty. I have begun to write these up for what I hope will eventually be a book comparing the assertions and conclusions stated by the Warren Commission with the testimony and evidence which is supposed to, but does not, support and document the Report. Thus far, I have written about 130 pages but consider that they barely scratch the surface.

(Although I have withdrawn my original article which was based solely on the Warren Report and written before the Hearings were issued, you might find the enclosed abstract of that article of some interest.)

In February, meanwhile, I learned that the New School for Social Research was introducing a course on the Warren Report, its legal and social implications. I immediately joined the course, which is once weekly, and found (as I had suspected) that only one other person and I had ventured into the Hearings. We had the rest of the group, including the instructor, at something of a disadvantage. Nevertheless, the exchange of information on all sides has been most useful and while the group is small--only about ten attend regularly--four or five are reliable, balanced, and well-informed.

I have also been co-operating all along with people in Mark Lane's camp, at times with less than satisfactory experience, but on the whole I retain my regard for Lane and his outstanding contribution in keeping the issue in the public's awareness and forcing the Commission to confront a few issues it might otherwise have avoided entirely.

This letter was interrupted on the preceding page while I made a quick trip across town to obtain a copy of Leo Sauvage's new book, "L'Affair Oswald"--available only in French, unfortunately. However, I will begin struggling through it with my fragmentary knowledge of the language, without wasting a minute if I can help it. I am most impressed by Sauvage, who put his objections to the Warren Report more succinctly than any other critic, saying "I don't like to be treated like an Idiot." Those are my views, too.

If I can find some time tonight or over the weekend, I may place a telephone call to you; but I am mailing this letter now, in case I should not be able to do so, just to give you an outline of my activities and contacts. Needless to say, I should be most interested to hear further from you and to compare findings.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Meagher