

6 October 1965

Dear Lillian,

It was quite a coincidence that you should have called on Sunday, on the occasion of a first attempt to collect the WR critics in this area or visiting here. The occasion was a relative success, in terms of providing an opportunity for strangers to meet who have a common commitment and who can profit by having access to each other in future. There was no "plan" other than that, and that much was accomplished, in an amicable atmosphere by and large (there was a heated exchange or two, towards the end, when only some of us were still present).

Let me mention first those who were present: Maggie Field, who was on the extension and who will contact you when she returns home to Beverly Hills--she was in fact the reason or *raison d'etre* of the gathering, which started with an intention for the two of us to meet, and then expanded to include a number of people whom she hoped to meet; Vincent Salandria, who has written (and published, in *LIBERATION*) first-class work on the medical and autopsy findings; Joe Lobenthal, the lawyer who taught the New School course on the Warren Report; Bill Crehan, Thomas Stamm, and Isabel Davis, who were participants in the course; Leo Sauvage, for whom I have increasing respect and admiration and whose position I find most logical, well-founded, and well-reasoned. He, Maggie, and Stamm have an approach to the case which is very close to my own--and Sauvage and I are perhaps alone in conceiving that Oswald may have been entirely innocent rather than a party to a conspiracy. Finally, there was Ed Epstein--perhaps the most interesting of all those present. It was my first meeting with him, although I had talked to him on the phone and knew about him for some time. Ed is a doctoral candidate who is writing his thesis on the WC's methods and procedures. By some miracle which astonishes everyone, Ed was successful in obtaining all but unlimited access to all members and all counsel of the WC (except for Warren himself), seeing them repeatedly for sessions of several hours and receiving access to a veritable storehouse of files, documents, records, and correspondence.

Ed is surprisingly free with his enviable and vast information, most of which is utterly startling. It is hard to believe or to understand why he was permitted to see so much--apparently he has strong backing from his University. In any case, he gave all of us the distinct impression that his thesis will expose and repudiate the WC and its findings, will indicate that he regards the Report as spurious, and will express the belief that there was a minimum of two assassins. He hopes to have his thesis published commercially but if that does not come to pass we will be able to buy copies--I will keep you informed when it becomes available, one way or the other. The outstanding thing that he told us on Sunday, in my opinion, is the electrifying fact that week after week during the course of travail and almost to the date of publication of the report, the lawyers would say in despair, "We have no case, we can't go on, we might as well give up, there is no evidence against Oswald," and then Willens would patch things up and rewrite and keep the leaking ship afloat--so that in spite of enormous discouragement and doubt by most of the lawyers that they could make out a case against O. that would stand up, the Report and its findings for village idiots finally got into print.

We will probably get together again, at least some of us who remain available, perhaps at Salandria's next time. Meanwhile, Maggie and I are playing with some tentative ideas of how as a group we could put something before the public that will shock into renewed examination and perhaps lead to an outcry for something better than the sleazy and insulting fantasy we have been offered.

Do keep in touch, Lillian. With best wishes,

Sylvia Meagher