

24 May 1970

Mrs. Mary Ferrell
4406 Holland
Dallas 75219

Dear Mrs. Ferrell,

You stagger me with the amount of work you have managed to do on the police radio tapes and on other aspects of the evidence. It was only yesterday that I was trying to resolve an inner conflict about how to go about a cross-check of the tapes against the various transcripts and related testimony or documents, and wondering where I would find the time to do that amount of work, once I had figured out how to attack it. I had just received a copy of the book by Judy Bonner, with still another transcript, and it all seemed rather overwhelming.

Your welcome letter of the 21st, indicating that you and Mr. Kimbrough have already carried out such an intensive analysis of all this material, seems to resolve my dilemma. There seems little point in my trying to duplicate what I am sure has been a very meticulous piece of research, especially when you have offered to share your results. My only hesitation about gratefully accepting your offer is that I don't know what extra work and expense would be involved for you and my reluctance to take advantage of such unusual kindness. I would feel better if I could do something of equal value for you, by way of reciprocation.

I don't know what you think of the Bonner book but on superficial examination and a quick reading of a hundred or so pages it seems to me to be the most thinly-veiled apologia for the Dallas police, stuffed with gross inaccuracies. When I read that "Oswald" was walking rapidly toward Tippit's car, and that Tippit had been shot three times, I despaired and felt disinclined to bother reading the rest of the book. Even if the book was utterly sincere and disinterested, I can find no excuse for such mutilation of uncontested facts. I have not yet received my copy of the Al Newman book, which went astray in transit and is being replaced by the bookshop, but I feel safe in predicting that Newman's book, like all the others purporting to "vindicate" the Warren Report, will not address itself to or dispose of the outstanding evidentiary problems raised in the serious critical works.

Reverting to the police radio tapes: I am especially interested in several specific points which I discussed in Accessories---the 12:45 instruction to Tippit and Nelson, and Nelson's seeming disregard of his assignment to central Oak Cliff; the excessive and incomprehensible preoccupation of the dispatcher(s) with Tippit as demonstrated in answered and unanswered signals to him; the rationale of calling numerous squads from all districts to the TSBD but sending Tippit, or Tippit and Nelson, to an area where some squads were in position (Mentzel, for one) --leaving districts 78 and 87 unpoliced; and the "discovery" of the gray zipper jacket, attributed to Westbrook, well before Westbrook learned that the suspect had shed a jacket and set out to search for it. I am also interested in Sawyer's signal, supposedly after he had learned through Brennan and/or other witnesses (Euins) of the man in the window with the rifle, that it was unknown if the rifleman was still in the Depository and "not known if he was there in the first place." And many other points, too lengthy and numerous to go into in this letter.

Recently I had a visit from Paul Hoch, finally meeting him personally after some years of correspondence, and feeling that he was an old and good friend as well as one of the most reliable researchers. But I have still to meet David Lifton personally. We have been in close touch by letter and telephone over the years--since 1965, I think --and I do feel especially close to David in many ways. We have had serious differences

of opinion at times about matters of evidence, and sometimes also about relations among the critics. Of course, the differences in age and general experience make some of the differences inevitable; but David is honest enough to listen to another point of view and able to change his own position if he becomes convinced that he was wrong, which is a fine quality. He is, as you say, a distinct asset; and I vest a great deal of hope in the ultimate outcome of his work.

Do you expect to be in Dallas in August, Mary? I expect to have the month off and I have no inclination toward a vacation for pleasure or escape, nor can I just pick up and leave New York on whim, because I have a royal highness of a cat to be considered. Last summer I had to work in Boston during July and she came with me, and had a splendid time in the hotel room while I labored elsewhere in the hotel compound at an international conference. If I should find it possible to visit Dallas this summer, I would hope for the pleasure of meeting you and perhaps have your help in seeing Dealey Plaza, Oak Cliff, and other parts of your city which in some ways are far more familiar to me than any number of locations in New York.

Please let me know at your convenience, Mary, what work and costs would be involved if you do send me a copy of your work on the police radio tapes, and thank you once more for your generous readiness to share your material.

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Meagher
302 West 12 St
NYC NY 10014