

D R A F T

TO : Foundations

SUBJECT : Annotated Warren Report .

Approximately seven years ago, the Warren Commission published its Report to President Johnson on the death of President Kennedy. As several critics have pointed out, and some Commission staff members have conceded, the investigation and Report of the Commission were made under "forced draft" in a desire to "lay the problem to rest" prior to the election of 1964.

It had been anticipated at the time that the Report might contain a certain number of minor errors. However, it has become increasingly clear in the intervening years that the analysis and reasoning underlying the Commission's conclusions suffer major defects. In fact, a good case can be made for the view that the Report is superficial, that its basic conclusions are incorrect, and that the Report was published primarily to calm the fears of the American public rather than to solve the crime. (The same is not true, or much less true, of the 26 volumes of Hearings and Exhibits, however.)

In late 1970 and early 1971, the FBI, Secret Service, and CIA completed a review of the mass of still-classified Warren Commission documents and released some 3,000 pages of material previously withheld from the public. These have added weight to the argument that the Report was faulty and that there is need for an annotated report which would lay bare the defects in the Warren Report in an objective and comprehensive manner.

It is the proposal of our Committee to compile and publish such an Annotated Report, hopefully with the help of one or more foundations.

Our source materials would consist primarily of the following:

- a) the 26 volumes of testimony and exhibits published by the Warren Commission.
- b) the unpublished material in the National Archives, including the new material released in 1970-1971.

- c) the work of the reputable critics of the Commission, including the books of Sylvia Meagher, Josiah Thompson, and Harold Weisberg.
- d) our own massive, private files collected over several years.

The format of the Annotated Report would be very simple: after each error, contradiction, omission, or logical defect in the Report, break off and print the appropriate correction or emendation in italics, using the Commission's own work (data from the 26 volumes or the Archives) where possible.

It is contemplated that the Report would be divided into several segments, each part being assigned to that scholar who is best equipped to annotate the particular segment. The overall project would be supervised and controlled from our Washington office. It is contemplated that two years would be sufficient to complete the project. A very tentative budget is attached.

Additionally, some "propaganda" about our Committee is enclosed.

We would be very pleased to discuss the matter in detail with you or a representative of your foundation.

Sincerely yours,

Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.  
Executive Director

BF:crr  
Encls.

DRAFT TWO-YEAR BUDGET

1 - Overall Project Director -----	\$ 20,000
4 - Segment Directors (at \$10,000) -----	40,000
4 - Student Helpers (at \$5,000) -----	20,000
Administrative Expenses -----	20,000
Publishing Expenses -----	<u>15,000</u>
Total - - - - -	<u>\$115,000</u>

## "2039 SOCIETY"

The formation was announced in Washington recently of the "2039 Society," a tongue-in-cheek subsidiary of the deadly serious, Washington-based Committee to Investigate Assassinations.

"The '2039 Society'," according to its founder, "is a select group of American patriots dedicated to the single goal of staying alive until the Year 2039 to discover who really shot President John F. Kennedy."

Founding of the Society was sparked by the recent declassification of a few additional documents in the mass being held secret by the National Archives for 75 years.

Still classified are such gems as "File of the Government of the U. S. S. R. on Lee Harvey Oswald," "Oswald's access to U-2 material," and "X rays attached to President Kennedy's autopsy."

A number of the newly "declassified" documents were, embarrassingly enough, published by the Warren Commission in 1964.