

Note for the Record

Telephone call from Kaye Northcott, Editor, The Texas Observer, to S. Meagher, Monday 11/16/70 at 6:30 p.m.

Miss N. called to apologize for her delay in letting me know her plans for my article on the Charles Givens evidence. She feels it is an important article and does intend to publish it--in fact, she was just going to press with the next issue. She wondered, however, in view of the serious nature of the charges in the article against lawyers Ball and Belin, if I had been in touch with them.

I explained that, as detailed in Accessories, at an early stage in my research on the WR I had directed 15 letters to lawyers and members of the WC on specific discrepancies in the evidence, without getting any reply at all from most of them and only non-responsive acknowledgements from others. Therefore, I had not made further attempts to establish any dialogue with the lawyers or WC members.

However, I thought it would be an excellent idea if Miss N. contacted Ball and Belin (whose affiliations as published in the WR I read to her) about the ms. of my Givens article. I would be most interested in any explanations they might have which would clear up what appeared from the official documentation--citations given in each case in my ms--to be highly improper actions if not malfeasance which in other circumstances might be grounds for disbarment. We agreed that she would first contact Ball and Belin and ask for their comments on my ms. before it is published, after which presumably she would publish it.

When Miss N. then asked me to continue to submit any material on the case which I might have, I mentioned that a researcher in Ontario had made what appeared to me to be a potentially "sensational" discovery, involving the ballistics evidence and rather technical analysis, which might well turn out to be conclusive evidence that the fatal head shot came from the front. I asked Miss N. if she had facilities through which to get major press coverage for such an article, if it was ultimately written up, submitted to her, and accepted for publication. She said that she did have good contacts (though not in Texas) with, for example, the Washington Post and wire services. I said that at such time as the Canadian researcher had written up his findings for publication, I would encourage him to submit his ms. to her.

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