

1 October 1971

Mr. David W. Belin  
Herrick Langdon Belin & Harris  
300 Home Federal Building  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Dear Mr. Belin:

Your latest letter merely underscores your abject inability to justify the manner in which you and the Warren Commission handled the testimony of Charles Givens. That you persistently fail to respond to the specific, legitimate questions of fact and evidence I have posed, and take refuge in reiteration of the discredited conclusions of the Warren Report, is a clear confession of bankruptcy and default.

As to your insinuation that I lack acquaintance with the 26 volumes of the Hearings and Exhibits: even if you are not aware that I compiled the Subject Index to the Warren Report and the Hearings and Exhibits (Scarecrow Press, New York and London, 1966), it should have been obvious to you from my article on Givens that I am conversant not only with the 26 volumes but also with the unpublished Commission documents housed at the National Archives.

Indeed, it was a searching study of the 26 volumes that first caused me to feel grave disquiet about the Givens' testimony and to compile a long catalogue of similar conflicts between assertions in the Warren Report and the corresponding portions of the testimony and exhibits. The volumes also threw considerable light on the competence, impartiality, and thoroughness of the investigation conducted by the Commission and its counsel. For example, they yielded such gems of fact-finding skill as your elicitation from Domingo Benavides of an identification of a jacket--the wrong jacket--(6H 453), and the delicious passage in which your colleague Mr. Ball asked a witness, "Was there an E. V. Brown?" and the witness replied, "That's me"! (6H 232). These and many similar lapses, not your self-serving pronouncements, serve to illuminate the "objectivity" and "intelligence" of the inquiry carried out by the Warren Commission.

Should you reply to this letter with nothing more than bombastic declarations of absolute rectitude and infallibility on the part of the Commission and its counsel, I shall consider this correspondence closed and leave you to such pitiable satisfaction as you may derive from the pretense of having had the last word. Nihil est veritatis luce dulcius.

Yours truly,

  
Sylvia Meagher