

To Our Concerned Friends:

This is the first newsletter from the 1967 CITIZENS COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY. To those of you who have subscribed to this newsletter, we send our thanks, as you make it possible for us to advertise, to do mailings, to collect signatures - in effect, to continue, to grow. And to those of you who have not yet subscribed, we hope and trust you will fill out the enclosed coupon, so that we may continue to mail to you, and to expand our activities. Funds are urgently needed.

"The Trial of Lee Harvey Oswald" opened Nov. 5th at the ANTA theatre, received only fair reviews at best, and closed Nov. 11th. Clive Barnes, drama critic of the New York Times, was confused because "the evidence is conflicting" in the play. Where has Mr. Barnes been for the last four years? He also referred to the play as "a perversion of democratic processes". That sounds to us like the Warren Report.

During the preview week, with small houses at the theatre, we collected 1,000 signatures, which makes for a good opening for us. From those who refuse to sign, typical comments (when they speak at all), are; "I never sign anything, it's a bad thing to sign things."; "What good will it do - you can't bring him back to life." (Is 'him' Kennedy or Oswald?); or, "Oh no! I couldn't stand another investigation.". It seems McCarthyism is still with us, at least in the minds of some people.

From those who sign, we usually hear; "Thanks for the good work - keep it up"; and "Don't you think Jim Garrison will take care of it?". To those of you with faith in Jim Garrison's case, we would say this: The trial of Clay Shaw has been scheduled for the first court calendar week in February. We would be in serious error if we expect that trial to answer all our questions. It will answer questions about Garrison's case, but is not likely to be the final judgement. No one aside from the Government has access to all the evidence at this point, and only a new investigation of the kind we are petitioning for, can seriously answer all the questions of the American public.

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SPECIAL NOTICE

Sylvia Meagher, author of "Accessories After the Fact: The Warren Commission, The Authorities & The Report", will attend an autograph-signing party for her new book, on Friday, November 24th, from 7.00pm to 9.00pm, at Bruce Mason's Bookmarket, 147 West 57th St., N.Y.C. The store phone is 247-1991.

Several other books on the assassination are coming out, and this bookstore is giving autograph parties for several authors. This is to be the first of these parties - we'll let you know of the others as soon as we have details.

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Mrs. Meagher's book is being published by the Bobbs-Merrill company, at \$8.50, and has an introduction by Leo Sauvage. It is a beautifully constructed book, thought out the way the Warren Report should have been. With the kind permission of the publishers, we reprint on the next page, the following quotes from the book. First, from the forward:

over

1967 CITIZENS' COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY
G.P.O. BOX 2691, N.Y., N.Y., 10001

Enclosed please find the sum of \$ _____, as my donation to the work of the Committee. (Any sum of \$5.00 or over will be considered as membership in the Committee entitling you to our newsletter.) I am / am not already a subscriber, but please find \$ _____ enclosed so that you may expand.

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It has been said that the American people are the only jury that Lee Harvey Oswald will ever have. It is our responsibility, then, to examine with utmost care and objectivity the evidence for and against him, and to reach an independent verdict. That responsibility cannot be delegated to others, however exalted their reputations and their honors. The first step must be the patient reading of the Hearings and Exhibits, imposing as the task is. If that reading demonstrates that the Report is an inaccurate, incomplete, or partisan synthesis of the raw material on which it supposedly relies, the authors - the Warren Commission - must account for the discrepancies in a manner that satisfies all doubt about their competence and their motives. If they cannot, or will not, provide such satisfaction, the people are entitled to a new investigation and a new report, by a competent and disinterested body submitting to the adversary procedure and permitting Oswald the maximum defense which can be given an accused man posthumously - an act of justice thus far denied him.

A new investigation utilizing the adversary procedure may theoretically also find that Oswald was the lone assassin. If such a finding is supported by unambiguous evidence which cannot be successfully challenged by the defense and if it is based on procedural decorum and equity, it will be acceptable. If there is a different finding, implicating co-assassins or absolving Oswald entirely, that too must meet the strictest tests of evidence and procedure.

And from the Epilogue:

The new investigative body should first attack the evidence against Oswald presented in the Warren Report and the Hearings and Exhibits, and present an objective and scientific evaluation of that evidence so that the ambiguity about his role in the assassination will, if possible, be dispelled. The new body must also be given access to the suppressed documents of the Warren Commission. The 75-year time vault must be opened and its contents must be put before the new body - and, at the appropriate moment, before the public, within our lifetime. The leads and clues which were not followed up by the Warren Commission, or which were incompletely investigated, now must be pursued with vigor, by independent investigators and not by the governmental agencies compromised by their role in the protection of the murdered President.

To read between these sections, we suggest you attend the autograph party, and buy a copy of the book, either for your existing collection, or as a first exploration in depth of the assassination and its aftermath.

The next two books are; "Oswald in New Orleans: Case For Conspiracy With the CIA", by Harold Weisberg, author of the Whitewash series; and "Six Seconds in Dallas", by Josiah Thompson, a Life magazine investigator of the assassination. Our next newsletter will contain more information on these books, and related activities.

Mort Sahl will be doing a theatre show in New York soon, assisted by three people, and probably with mention of the assassination, as he has done a great deal to stimulate talk in this area. The show opens on Tuesday, Nov. 21, at the East 74th Street Theatre, on a Tuesday to Sunday schedule. Until then, he has appeared in the evening on WNBC radio, where he answers phone queries. We intend to petition at the theatre - we hope to see you there.

And thus ends our first newsletter. Please write 'letters to the editor', with questions, statements, suggestions, etc. And let us have your subscriptions, as we are very much dependent on funds to reach the maximum number of people, and for exciting activities planned for the months ahead. Also, if you can, volunteer for work in your community, by writing a note on the back of the coupon - we'll send you a card for more details. We need you.