

1 November 1967

Mr. Trent Gough
G.P.O. Box 1846
New York, N.Y. 10001

Dear Mr. Gough,

Thank you for your very kind letter of the 31st of October. Steve Burton had indicated that a Committee was in process of formation in New York and I congratulate you on what appears to be a most competent and imaginative beginning.

Certainly, I should be happy to discuss with you the plans and activities you are contemplating, and to offer you any appropriate help within my means. However, I have to make my position clear on one issue which has become increasingly controversial and divisive among the critics of the Warren Report, and which may constitute an obstacle, in the Committee's view or in my own, or both.

The issue in question, as you may be aware already, is the Garrison investigation. Personally, I repudiate the New Orleans district attorney as reckless, irresponsible, and unscrupulous. Far from regarding him as one of the critics, I regard him as a threat to legitimate criticism and an adversary in much the same way as the Warren Commission. I note that the circulars enclosed with your letter quotes Garrison and recommends his Playboy interview, while not actually endorsing his investigation or his specific pronouncements about the assassination conspiracy. Nevertheless, there is an implicit support or sympathy in the circulars—at the very least, a neutrality—with which I would not consent to be associated.

Please understand that I am not seeking to convert you or the Committee to my views nor in any way seeking to influence Committee policy or affiliations. I thought it only fair to state my position without equivocation, so that you might reconsider the suggestions in your letter in full awareness of the potential problems which may arise from differences about the Garrison investigation. I will understand completely, of course, if you would wish to proceed with caution, because of this question. Please give me a ring, if you wish, after you have given the matter thought, at Chelsea 2-4293 evenings or weekends. Meanwhile, accept my thanks and very good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Meagher
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