

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA

CLEVELAND, OHIO 44113

BURT W. GRIFFIN
JUDGE

July 30, 1976

Mrs. Martin J. Parker
6326 Alderwood Road
Parma Hts., Ohio 44130

Dear Mrs. Parker:

Thank you for the materials on Senator Russell.

The Weisberger statement is the first information I have ever had that Senator Russell disagreed with the Commission's findings.

I would hope that the new Congressional investigation will go into this. Alfreda Scohey -- Senator Russell's personal assistant on Warren Commission matters -- would be a key witness as to Russell's true attitude. I hope that she is asked to testify.

I want to reiterate that the Warren Commission did not knowingly function as a "cover-up". Our effort was to find and report everything that was relevant. We painstakingly tried to publish everything that we thought relevant (even if it conflicted with our findings) and tried to preserve every document we received for public inspection in the archives. Only the autopsy photographs were deliberately withheld by the Commission; and that was out of deference to and at the request of the Kennedy family.

Recently, it has become apparent that some documents may have been withheld from the public through subsequent government classification procedures, that some documents may have been destroyed after we received them, and that other information was withheld from the Commission and/or the Commission staff.

I am personally shocked and feel betrayed that such "cover-up" activities have occurred. I still believe that the Commission, with the possible exception of Alan Dulles, did not participate in any cover-up, but that it was the work of others. I am certain that none of the staff people with whom I worked closely knew of any cover-up activities.

I suspect that this "cover-up" did not result so much from liberal or conservative philosophies as it did from the selfish interests of the Dallas police, F.B.I., C.I.A. and other government officials who would be undermined if the truth were known and from the belief of some government officials that it was more important to continue with the activities they wanted to conceal rather than give a complete story to the public. Much of that concealment they may have honestly but wrongfully believed was in the best interests of the nation.

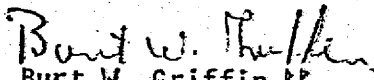
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The comments that Anson and the Saturday Evening Post make about how the Warren Report language was arrived at does not correspond with the facts. I personally drafted the materials on Jack Ruby and am familiar with the work on other parts of the Report. Staff members such as myself wrote the text and decided independently that the evidence justified only the language "probably" or that there was "no evidence" on certain matters. Rather than receiving pressure from dissenting Commission members, the greater truth is that the Commission members seemed to accept, almost without questioning, what the staff members concluded and drafted.

Despite many erroneous criticisms such as from Anson and the Saturday Evening Post, I strongly support, as you know, a reopening of the investigation. The conduct of the Commission and the agencies upon which it relied should be carefully examined and any new information should be fully pursued. The important questions are not only how and why President Kennedy was assassinated, but how such events can be effectively investigated.

If the Commission made mistakes, the public should know about it; but if the critics have been wrong, the public should also know that.

Sincerely,


Burt W. Griffin
Judge

BWG/jh

Enclosure: Articles on Warren Commission