

4666 - 27th Ave. No.
St. Petersburg, Florida 33713
20 May 1968

Mrs. Sylvia Meagher
302 West 12th Street
New York, New York 10014

Dear Mrs. Meagher:

Thank you for your letter of the 17th. Today's mail was the kind I enjoy: A letter from you and one from Coral Lorenzen, two people for whom I have the greatest admiration. No bills, no circulars, no requests for free "genuine photographs of UFCs." Just nice letters.

Bob Ruark's address is: Bob Ruark
 P. O. Box 10,000
 St. Petersburg, Florida

Bob dropped by last week for all of 15 minutes. He volunteered the information that he does intend having you as a guest but that he has been in a state of confusion: WLCY has built new studios for both radio and TV and he has been living out of cartons. He glanced through your book quickly but did not take it with him because of the disorder involved in moving to the new quarters and the possibility he would lose the book. I hope the publisher does have a copy to send him so he can read it.

I would like to emphasize the advice Mr. Sorensen offered regarding the program. You may begin to think you are in the middle of John Birch country but it is only that they are so vocal. If there is any particular point you would like to be sure is brought out, let me know so I can call and ask the question when you are on.

Strange about all those who wanted your Index. So far as I know there is no other available. One of these days you will hear from all of them and all will want the microfilm immediately. It will probably pain him to read this, but Mr. Sorensen is one of the kindest individuals I know.

Thank you for telling me about The New Yorker. I'll be watching for it. It is so difficult to remain objective and yet it is necessary. I have tried to read all opinions, whether I agree or not, with the result that my own thinking is in a constant state of change. Your articles are of particular interest to me and I hope Mr. Sorensen will share them with me.

Enclosed is a copy of an item from one of the November 1963 newspapers I found I had saved. No doubt you have the same information but I don't recall reading about Dr. Shaw's statement that a bullet was removed from Kennedy's right lung at Bethesda. If any of the critics covered this, I have missed it. This is such a definite statement by Dr. Shaw and came after the phone calls from Bethesda to Parkland.

Your question about the index to the Commission Documents is one I have asked myself. The original intention was merely to find the rest of some report that had chopped off in the middle of a word. Then I began to notice that the various reports took on a different meaning when studied as they had been submitted originally. In reading the testimony I also noticed they would sometimes refer to a Commission Document and then it would not be introduced as an exhibit. Preventing ordering duplicates from the Archives was a later idea that seemed to make it all the more worth while.

Another discovery was that some CDs are almost identical to others, being composed for the most part of reports that had been included in others. CD 85, for example, seems to be composed of material in CD 81a. CD 102 a-cc appears to include CD 81a-m as well as parts of other CDs. CD 1364, pp 3-11, is the same as CD 1472, pp 25-33; these are shown as CEs 3001 and 3009.

A page number followed by an asterisk denotes the final page of a CD.

A further advantage of having worked on this came to light in going over the list of Basic Source Materials. Many files are marked with an "X" which is supposed to show that they are classified - for the time being, at least. This is not always true. Most of the time the X covers only a part of it, the balance appearing in the published exhibits. Up to File #1527, the file numbers seem to correspond to the CD numbers. Starting with 1527, however, things generally go to pot with no resemblance between file numbers and CD content. The titles given to these file numbers are intriguing and, if you don't have that list, I will send you a listing of this portion.

It is possible that when it is all completed (sometime in the year 2001) I will look at my white-haired self in the mirror and say, "Helen, you have completed a Thing. Don't know what good the Thing may be, but you have completed it."

Perhaps, from what I have told you now, you may have further comments. Thank you for the kind words about my energy and determination. Actually, it takes less energy to do this than to get outside and mow that lawn that my husband has not had time to cut. When my head begins to go in circles, I escape to UFOs - much to Mr. Sorensen's despair.

If you still find any time to follow the UFO subject, Signet has just released a new soft cover book, "UFOs Over The Americas", by Jim and Coral Lorenzen. In my own opinion, it is the best UFO book yet, part of it dealing with the CIA involvement. As I read it, I had to keep reminding myself that it was written by people I know.

There is a thing I would like you to know. As Mr. Sorensen has written you, I have a fairly regular correspondence with Harold Weisberg. I want to assure you, since you have no other way of knowing anything about me, that I regard your letters as private communications and would never pass on to anyone else any part of them without first asking and receiving your permission. You are aware that Mr. Sorensen and I have furnished each other with copies of your letters but this is the only exception. Mr. Weisberg knows I wrote you about the radio program but not of any further correspondence.

My apologies for taking so much of your time. I will be looking forward to an announcement from Bob Ruark that he has contacted you.

Please, don't even hint that we may be working on this the rest of our lives. If things are developing as I interpret them, all of us who have dared to criticize the present situation will be unwelcome in our own country and will find life a little unpleasant. It is my hope the public can be made aware of what is happening before that time comes.

I would be proud to be considered among your friends.

Sincere best wishes,



Helen G. Hartmann