

April 23, 1975

Dear Sylvia,

Thanks for your letter of the 11th, with the kind comments on my CIA memorandum. The Church Committee has not responded to it, but there have been reports that the Rockefeller Commission is looking into the possibility that the CIA withheld things from the Commission.

Burt Griffin appeared impressed by some of my work, so at his suggestion I sent a copy of the CIA memo directly to Belin. (I had previously sent it to Commission member Shannon.) To my surprise, Griffin said some nice things about how open-minded Belin was on this subject! In a preliminary response, Belin asked me if I agree with the Warren Commission's finding that Oswald killed Kennedy and Tippit!! I hear that he responded to the recent New York Review piece by asking a dozen questions about the Tippit case. This is all very weird, so I am responding to him by making only the minimal anti-WR comments that I honestly can, to see how he reacts. Which brings me to the reason for this letter: may I distribute copies of your correspondence with him in 1971, along with the Texas Observer article? (I have your letter of 9/7/71, his incredible reply of 9/15 & your letter of 9/20, which I presume he did not answer.) I might want to send this material to Griffin, if the situation arises, and to Shannon, who apparently wondered about the opinion I expressed in my cover letter that Belin's defense of the Warren Report was "intellectually dishonest." (What I had in mind was primarily that his book didn't mention your work.)

It looks like various people, from Ford on down, are preparing to cover themselves by talking about evidence that was not given to the Commission. There is a lot of truth in that, but it is not much of a defense. Most of the staff is too smart to start defending the Report as such. I have a hunch that some ~~of~~ of them are encouraging Belin to go out into the mine field and ~~look~~ look for mines, and that he is dumb enough to want to do it.

Sincerely,

Paul  
PLH

Replied by hand 4/29/75

"You have my full permission to use my correspondence with Belin in any manner consistent with my position on the WR and toward the general aims and objectives set forth in my published work."