

4 February 1969

Dear Mr. Joesten,

I have read with attention your reply to my criticism with respect to the alleged TWX message. If I correctly understand your reasoning, you take the position that Garrison is entitled to hold a press conference to announce to the world that Oswald was the source of an advance TWX message warning of the likelihood that an assassination attempt would be made a week later in Dallas, but is not obliged to provide any supporting evidence for his allegation.

Then when Garrison does offer "supporting evidence" on a nation-wide TV appearance, a month later, his stated basis for the allegation is to be considered immune from questions or criticism, on the grounds that he must have stronger evidence which he is keeping secret.

If Garrison is so careful to protect his evidence, I see no reason why he should have informed the press at all about the alleged TWX message. Surely he is not entitled to make unsupported charges or to claim the right to blind, unquestioning acceptance of their validity; nor would he be entitled to such a blank check of credence even if his past performance earned confidence in his factual accuracy or his probity--which it certainly does not.

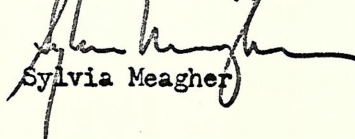
As to the so-called "secrecy" of grand jury proceedings in New Orleans: a spot-check of my clippings indicates that the press reported the appearances before the grand jury of the following witnesses: Ruth Paine, Thomas Beckham, Miguel Torres, H.H. Anderson, John Cancler, William Gurvich, Ed Planer, Eugene C. Davis, Carlos Quiroga, Marina Oswald Porter, Regis Kennedy, and Oscar Deslatte, among others, in one twelve-month period. In some instances, accounts were even given in the press of the duration of the testimony and its nature.

I think it is eminently reasonable to assume from all of the above facts that Mr. Walter did not give sworn testimony to the grand jury on the TWX message; and that to assume, on the contrary, that he did so, reveals that objectivity has been displaced by a blank check of unlimited faith. As I did not give such carte blanche to the Warren Commission, I do not permit myself the luxury of giving it to Garrison or to any other party.

Since I do not wish to take excessive space in your newsletter, this comment on your reply to my "friendly dissent" can be considered as personal correspondence not requiring publication. But this in no way implies any reticence on my part to place these views on record, and I should like it to be clear that I fully maintain my original criticisms, which you have been good enough to present to your readers.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,


Sylvia Meagher