

2 November 1965

Dear Dave,

I am sorry to say that you succeeded with one phone call where the massive propaganda of the Warren Commission and the news media had failed—you made me wonder for the first time if Oswald was not the lone assassin after all. Never before have I faltered in my conviction that the official conclusions are specious, and I have tried to understand why our conversation had such a dismaying impact.

I think it may be because your theory dissolves the line between reality and illusion and makes any hypothesis more acceptable which at least leaves one on relatively solid ground. Also, and I say this in a completely friendly way, you have only a slender and tentative foundation for the elaborate structure you are projecting, against which many considerations of logic must be raised. Mainly, that there was no need for such a complicated and numerously manned operation to achieve the objective. Nevertheless, I intend to keep an open mind should you succeed in finding conclusive proof.

In the meantime, from what you told me about Ray Marcus and from my own unhappy reaction, I am afraid that discussion of your hypothesis even within the small group of people who are working with the same objective as yours has a demoralizing and divisive effect and should be avoided. If friends and co-workers feel such violent antipathy, the effect on those who are committed to the Warren Report can easily be imagined. Premature discussion or disclosure, in the absence of conclusive proof, will do incalculable harm and will expose all attempts to reopen the investigation to the cruelest ridicule and vicious denunciation.

Without question, you have been doing valuable work and have made some discoveries of crucial importance. I would like to urge you, Dave, not to press your hypothesis and not to force people to take a position for or against it, until such time as you have conclusive findings that will counteract the involuntary shock and resistance that such a concept produces. Nothing will be lost by such restraint, but a great deal of harm may result from unsupported speculation at this time. Sylvan Fox is having considerable impact, largely because in attacking the report he does not offer alternative theories but limits himself strictly to the factual discrepancies in the Report—that is my impression after the radio broadcast last night (Vince Salandria said he would tape it).

I hope you will receive this letter in the same spirit in which it is written—not as personal criticism, but in concern to avoid in-fighting and to avoid any playing into the hands of the very forces we are all opposing.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Sylvia Meagher