

20 March 1967

Mr Steven Burton
Citizens' Committee of Inquiry
Box 150
380 Westwood Plaza
Los Angeles 90024

Dear Steven,

Thanks for your letter of the 15th. I am glad that you are keeping in touch and interested to learn that there is now a New York committee. You might let me know, at your ~~mutual~~ convenience, where they are housed. I do not know Trent Gough but I hope that he will feel free to contact me if I can be helpful to him or the committee.

As I recall it, the old committee was not called "Mark Lane's Committee of Inquiry" but I can understand why you have that impression. The Committee was completely identified with Lane, which compromised any claim to impartiality in any situation in which there was a conflict between objective evidence and Lane's position. I had personal experience of this on one occasion. On a radio broadcast, Lane referred to a Commission Exhibit as a report written by the CIA when in fact it was a report written by two Commission lawyers to the CIA. I called one of the key Committee members asking her to bring the error to Lane's attention, so that he would not repeat it. But she was unwilling even to consider the notion that Lane could have made an error and was so wrathful at the very suggestion that she immediately broke off all contact with me. Lane subsequently repeated the mistake in a published article, which had to be followed by a correction. The lady in question nevertheless continues to this day to regard my attempt to point out the error as an unforgivable affront.

At least two other people who did some volunteer work at the Committee were somewhat critical, I forget their exact reasons. The press, of course, was hostile, but they were hostile toward any criticism of the Warren Report, so I discount that. However, I do agree that the New York committee should avoid the confusion that would arise from using the same or a similar name as the Lane group and, if possible, a name that suggests the subject of the inquiry.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,