

17 April 1968

Representative Charles W. Whalen, Jr.  
The House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Representative Whalen,

I should be grateful if it was possible for your office to send me the full text of your remarks criticizing the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the "welter of premature and contradictory statements clouding the investigation" of the assassination of Martin Luther King. A mention of your remarks appeared in the press on 13 April 1968 under an AP dateline but on a radio news report on the night of 12 April 1968 there was a seemingly fuller account of your comments, including references to the Warren Report and the assassination of President Kennedy.

As the author of Accessories After the Fact: The Warren Commission, the Authorities, and the Report (Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1967) and of the Subject Index to the Warren Report (Scarecrow Press, 1966), I too was struck by the astonishing analogies between the strange investigations of the Memphis assassination and the Dallas murders. Certainly, it is impossible not to be sensitive to the instantaneity with which both assassinations were immediately pronounced by high officials, including the U. S. Attorney-General, to be the work of lone assassins, not to say lone deranged assassins. In the recent tragic assassination, such a pronouncement was particularly peculiar, made as it was while there was no suspect in custody and precious little evidenciary information on which to base any tentative conclusions.

The inexcusable defects of the Warren Report have already been quite fully documented in various critical books and studies. The investigation of the assassination of Martin Luther King appears to be taking a course no less incomprehensible and worrisome. I am gratified that you have publicly questioned the conduct of this investigation and the pronouncements by the responsible spokesmen and I wish to appeal to you to press for the clarifications to which the American people are entitled, in the Kennedy assassination as well as that which followed in Memphis. The shame and discredit to which the country has been brought by the murder must not be permitted to be compounded further by "investigation" which disgraces the word and arouses contempt for American "justice" in every part of the civilized world.

Yours sincerely,

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