

26 December 1965

Mrs Shirley Martin
Box 566
Hominy, Oklahoma

Dear Mrs Martin,

I have looked forward to being in touch with you ever since my first meeting with Vince Salandria last July, when he suggested that we should become acquainted for practical and moral support. I was reluctant to write first, however, when I heard that you had become weary and wanted some surcease from your long labor on the case—from everything I have heard and read, a monumental one-man campaign against the most powerful and formidable forces. Since you have incurred the displeasure of the Warren Commission, you are saddled with the admiration and perhaps effrontery of strangers like myself who are still going through the initiation rites—fortunately, we are few in number...which is really a catastrophe and a disgrace.

So I must intrude on you for information—but I excuse myself, it needs only a "yes" or "no." I am trying to trace a transcript of the interrogation of a witness, a woman whose name is withheld but who seems to correspond exactly with Aquilla Clemmons, part of which transcript was published by Dorothy Kilgallen in a full-page story headlined "Witnesses Tell of Fear" (or something similar) in the New York Journal-American of 9/25/63. The prefatory remarks say rather explicitly that the quoted transcript was from an official document or exhibit of the Warren Commission "presumably to be published" but I have been told that it is possible that Miss Kilgallen obtained a transcript of an interview with Mrs Clemmons conducted by a non-official investigator. Jones Harris tells me that he did not interview Mrs Clemmons; apparently the Mark Lane people did not. I know that the Nashes did question her, but they did not publish a transcript --and I am unable to locate them.

Therefore, I would be most grateful if you could indicate whether you recorded an interview with Mrs Clemmons or whether you know of anyone else who did and who might have made the transcript available to Dorothy Kilgallen. Her death is very saddening; not only because she had done and was perhaps still doing important work on this case, but because she was young and in her own way exuberant and bright, with many gifts. Saddening, and almost frightening...And now, William Whaley, too. The list grows longer and longer.

Mrs Martin, I'm really proceeding in the dark, in this letter, and I only hope that I have not been presumptuous in asking your help, nor reopened pages that you prefer to keep closed. I shall hope to hear from you. With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Meagher
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