

October 5, 1966

Editors  
U.S. News & World Report  
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

As someone who has read the 26 volumes (Warren Commission Hearings) and who has spent 2½ years studying the assassination, has personally interviewed many witnesses and visited Dallas six times since November 22, 1963, may I say that Arlen Specter's defense of the Warren Report (U.S. News, Oct. 10) is ridiculous.

My argument, however, is not with Mr. Specter whose limited command of the facts makes him almost boring, but is directed to those who assume that conspiracy or collusion, conscious or otherwise, is beyond men of government. In this regard, U.S. News quoted one official (F&LNU): "That's not only monstrous—it's impossible." Mr. Specter himself remarks: "I think it is preposterous to suggest that the Chief Justice or any other commissioner would conceal the truth from the American people, or that reputable federal officers would perjure themselves."

Yet history (American history as well) is full of governmental conspiracy and collusion, conscious or otherwise. Conspiracy is a fact of human nature. It surrounds us everywhere, in price-fixing, in big business, in private life, in government "deals" to benefit organizations or individuals, in the gangster connections found even in Congress. Conor Cruise O'Brien remarks: "This is a curious delusion in a country in which organized crime—which is by definition a conspiracy—exerts power and penetrates law enforcement agencies on a scale unmatched anywhere else on earth." (New Statesman, Sept. 30, '66) In addition, we have only to examine the Dreyfus and Breliss cases to see that conspiracy, conscious or otherwise, is as easy for men of Chief Justice Warren's caliber as it is for anyone else. The idea that men once in government become automatically endowed, not only with virtue, but with brains, is asinine.

See, for example, how the Warren Commission covered the relationship between the Dallas FBI and the Dallas right-wing. Notice how the testimony linking close friends and business associates of President Johnson to a close friend of Lee Oswald was put "off the record." These are minor examples, but they prove that government officials are quite capable of conspiracy and collusion, conscious or otherwise. There are many people in Washington, contrary to Mr. Specter's fatuous remark, quite capable of concealing "the truth from the American people." And as to whether "reputable federal officers would perjure themselves", they do it all the time. Their only reserve being directed towards the possibility of being caught.

I am sure Mr. Specter and U.S. News know what I am talking about.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Shirley Martin  
Box 226  
Owasso, Oklahoma

cc: 12

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Second main paragraph of handwritten text, continuing the notes or list.

Third main paragraph of handwritten text, possibly a summary or conclusion.

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Large handwritten signature and name: "Sybil", "Mrs J. J. Jones", "Secretary of the Board", and "A.".