

29 May 1979

Professor G.L. Owens  
Huron College  
London, Ontario, Canada N6G 1H3

Dear Professor Owens,

I agree with Paul Hech that it would be very useful to prepare an index (by name and by subject) to the HSCA Report and the fifteen or more volumes of Hearings and related materials that will ultimately be published. Thus far, we have available only the five volumes of transcripts (and exhibits) of the public hearings. I have not compiled an index to these five volumes; I have only compiled a list and brief description of the exhibits which are included in these five volumes, since they are not numbered consecutively nor do they appear in the table of contents. I am enclosing my only copy of that list, which you may xerox and then please return to me.

The final Report will be a large volume covering both the JFK and MLK cases and I expect that it will be indexed. What will need to be indexed is the accompanying volumes of supporting material—five volumes now issued and another ten or more to be published eventually—but I have no plans at this time to prepare that index. If you and your colleagues plan to take on this task, you may wish to have a look at my Subject Index to the Warren Report and the Hearings and Exhibits, which should be available at a library and which can be ordered from University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, Michigan. That will give you an idea of the immensity and complexity of the task. In my opinion, the compilation of such an index requires a thorough, comprehensive and intimate knowledge of the evidence and the interrelationships of the many facets of the case, as well as close knowledge of the whole history of the case. I suppose it is not impossible to do such an index by committee effort but it would need intensive supervision and control of the project by one manager.

A further difficulty is that we do not know the publication date for the Report or for the remaining supporting volumes. I had heard that the Report would be out on June 15 but more recently I have heard that the target date is August.

If you wish to discuss any of these matters in greater detail, please telephone me (212-242-4293). I am sending a copy of this letter to Paul Hech for his information.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Meagher  
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NYC NY 10014