

1 March 1969

Mr. Paul Chapman
2045 Peachtree
Atlanta, Ga. 30309

Dear Paul,

I am returning your ms. herewith. As you will see, I have annotated the first half of it in considerable detail, but made only general comments on the second half.

With great regret, I have to say that my feeling about the ms. is negative. On the factual level, there are many statements which are incorrect or inexact. The writing style is marred both by faulty grammar and construction and by murkiness--you often do not say clearly or precisely what you mean to say.

The evidenciary exposition seems to me generally over-simplified, and on the judgmental level you fail to make the indispensable discrimination between possibilities, probabilities, evidence, proof, and demonstrable truth. Whereas factual and grammatical errors can be corrected, it is not easy to bring order into fundamental or pervasive weakness in reasoning or logic.

There is rather a slender content of original discovery and insight; some of the original findings seem to me to be of marginal significance, and some seems based on dubious assumptions.

What is praiseworthy is the sincerity of your stated desire for nothing except the truth about the assassination, and your personal earnestness and modesty. Yet some shadow is cast by your decision to remain anonymous, which I think is not an easily understandable or acceptable course for any writer on this subject. I would urge you to reconsider your decision, should you decide to proceed with a private edition. I would be very doubtful that you could find a commercial publisher for the ms. in its present form, especially in the unfavorable climate that is certain to result from events in New Orleans,

I have kept my promise to give you an honest opinion, as objectively and surgically as I could, and without regard to my affection for you. But I hope that you will not be guided by my opinion alone. I suggest that you have the ms. read by one or two other people, and then decide whether you wish to proceed.

With sincere friendship,

Sylvia Meagher