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January 14, 1970.

Dear Mrs. Meagher: Your book on the Warren Report lists a number of persons who died mysteriously during the period between the assassination of President Kennedy and some time in 1966 all of whom had some connections and possible evidence about either Oswald or Ruby or both. How many names you had I do not know but Penn Jones lists 24. I have wondered ever since I heard of these deaths some years ago if there was anything mysterious as well as, apparently, rather sudden about the death of Robert Ruark. He was the only one I have been able to find who knew something about rifle fire and ballistics to publish anything about the ballistics of the crime. In an article dated October 9, 1964, the only one I saw, he stated that he had read the Report scrupulously three times and that the portions involving ballistics "make no sense." He thus might well have been considered a good man to get rid of. I wonder if you can conveniently find out what else Ruark may have written about the Report and how he died and if you would be interested in doing so, that is, if you have not done so already. If the information is available around here, I have been unable to find it.

I have spent a good bit of time trying to figure out for whom the Commission was covering besides the FBI, Secret Service, CIA and the Dallas police. Certainly elements among all these four were among the conspirators. But it would seem that there must have been somebody else or some others. Lyndon Bird immediately comes to mind as accessory before as well as after the fact. And then there is the Commission itself. J. Edgar, a good while ago, expressed the desire to have a file on every individual in the country, all adults at least. He was given the data on WWI veterans and other ex-service men in 1933. Presumably he has added succeeding veterans and ex-service men to his lists as well as all significant public officials, business executives, the better known professionals and any others to suit his fancy. He certainly had extensive files on every member of the Commission. That his files are pretty complete I have reason to know.

In about 1947 or '48, an accountant in the office where I worked in Pittsburgh, Pa. boiled into the office one day with the noise that I was a Communist because of a file his wife, a stenographer in the FBI office, had seen on me. I knew that she had talked out of turn, looked into the file out of turn in fact, so I went to the FBI office to find out about the matter though I believe I did not mention the girl's name... I wasn't asked. The Agent in Charge was not in so I talked to another agent. Among other things he said: "We have files on all sorts of people: public officials, bankers, big business men..." Thus one might suppose that the Commission was covering for itself.

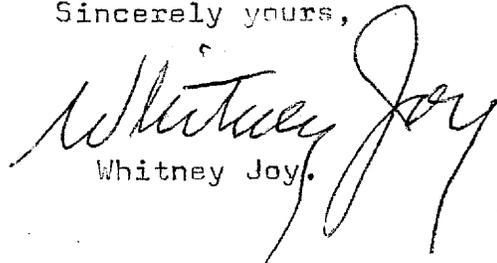
In a long interview with the news media in October, 1964, J. Edgar (The Bug) virtually dared anybody in official Washington or anywhere else, for that matter, to try to do anything about him. His files were open and he came close to inferring that he "had the goods" on the boys. Doubtless he had enough in his files to destroy every member of the Commission as well as Lyndon Bird and most members Congress and the Supreme Court. If the Commission proved Hoover to be a monstrous liar and an accessory after the fact, as it readily could have done, then he could have retaliated by destroying each of them. I feel rather certain that in these things lies the main reason for the cover-up.

It may interest you to know that over the past two

years I have queried 110 book publishers and only two, neither of them in New York, expressed an interest in seeing the manuscript. One was returned with the claim that it was "too technical" but that is nonsense. The second said that it did not fit in with the publishing plans. Strange that the managing editor did not know the plans when he first wrote to me. I also sent some queries to England with the same result.

One gal, the one who claimed the ms did not fit in, wanted to know why I "continually insisted" that Kennedy was sitting erect when Ken O'Donnel said he was "leaning out of the car and waving." I reminded her that the top had been removed from the car so that there was no such thing as leaning out. I also told her that, if she would check, I thought she would find that O'Donnel said: "He was waving...or maybe he was just lowering his hand." Actually he was waving as shown by Zapruder frames 206, 207 and 208. In Frame 209 the hand has disappeared abruptly. He was shot between frames 207 and 208 and not at frame 210 as the Commission claimed. I have seen frames 208, 209, 210 and 211 only in Thompson's book.

Sincerely yours,



Whitney Joy.