

18 November 1969

Mr. Robert W. Johnson
Alpha-Omega Players
4611 Cole Avenue Suite 205
Dallas 75205

Dear Mr. Johnson:

It was good to hear from you, even in lower case (I have one correspondent whose typewriter has no "t", which is a much greater handicap!). Are you in Dallas to stay?

Unfortunately I cannot be of much help to you on the Subject Index, beyond the enclosed "Notice". University Microfilms is regrettably very slow to fill orders. I had to buy a copy, just to see what it looks like, as they do not give "author's copies," and it took about five months before I received it. If you decide to order a copy from them, I suggest that you wreath it in urgency, so as to light a fire under them.

One other possibility is that Penn Jones might have a copy to lend or sell to you. As you know, he is at Midlothian, just outside of Dallas. Penn and I were very dear affectionate friends, until we fell out over Mr. Garrison (whom I consider a dangerous idiot, as you perhaps know already), which caused Penn to cut off all communication with me since mid-1967. At that time, by the way, he was selling the 26 volumes, which may no longer be the case.

There are some other researchers in Dallas, whom I do not know personally but have heard of from mutual acquaintances--Arch Kimbrough, and a Mary Ferrell. They are perfervid right-wingers, I am told, but very dedicated researchers. Recently I asked one of our mutual acquaintances to sound them out about a matter I am very anxious to have investigated, and perhaps this is something that you would be willing to work on, independently or with the others. Let me try to sketch it as briefly as I can:

In my book (Accessories...) there is a section titled "A Strange Arraignment," in which I cite the anomalies and contradictions in the evidence which caused me to conclude, at the time I wrote the book, that Oswald was never arraigned for the murder of JFK and that the Warren Report account of that arraignment is a pack of lies. About a month ago, I obtained from the Archives an unpublished document (CD 5 page 400)--copy enclosed--which seems to vindicate my suspicions about the arraignment. However, the evidence is not absolutely conclusive even now, so I am anxious to obtain additional information: (1) An uncropped version of a UPI photo widely published within days after 11/22/63, of Assistant DA Bill Alexander holding a legal document (of which only the top portion is visible in the versions of the photo I have seen, in Joesten's book and in the NY Times of 11/24/63), to determine if possible if the bottom half of the document is or is not blank. (2) Information on standard practice in Dallas in arraignments for homicide--Is it customary (or mandatory) or not to have a court reporter present and a legal transcript made? (3) Is there a transcript of the arraignment of Oswald for the murder of J. D. Tippit? (4) Is there a transcript of the arraignment of Ruby for the murder of Oswald?

Anything you can unearth on any of these points would be of utmost help.

Also enclosed herewith, a news clipping re Jesse Curry. It might be useful to set up a contact with him and see what light, if any, he can shed on the numerous unresolved questions involving the Dallas Police 11/22-24/63 (many of which are discussed in Accessories, see index listings at back of that book). However, please do not tackle him on the question of the arraignment of Oswald for the JFK murder because, if my original conclusions are correct, Curry was a party to perjury and collusion on this very question, and is not likely to be forthcoming with reliable information.

Regarding the CCI, AIC and other groups: I have heard nothing from any of them in some time. There is a pervasive silence and indifference about the case, thanks largely to the lunatic antics and pratfall of said Mr. Garrison. Thanks also, I am sorry to say, to the irresponsible behaviour of some critics, who are ingenious in finding ways to make asses of themselves and to cast disrepute on all criticism of the WR. I think the climate has never been less promising than at this moment; but, on the other hand, I feel sure that the case will come alive again, sooner or later, in some unpredictable convergence of circumstances. All serious students of the case should continue to work as effectively as possible without flagging, so that when the opportunity does come we will have as much good new evidence as can be elicited, from the Archives or from other forms of research.

You perhaps know that the Minority of One has been defunct for almost a year now. Most of my articles were published there, although I had work appear also in Esquire, Commonweal, and Studies on the Left. I have only my own file copies of the articles left now, with any extra copies long since dispersed one way or the other. I can only suggest that you try the libraries at your disposal and/or Penn Jones, who may have some or most of the articles.

One other thought occurs to me, on specific areas not yet fully explored: It would be useful to contact Milton Jones (again, see Accessories) regarding his statement to the FBI that police boarded the bus just after Oswald got off and took a taxi to Oak Cliff, during the half-hour just after the shooting at Dealey Plaza. Six years have passed and he may no longer be in Dallas, nor have anything but the most vague recollection of the incident. Just the same, you might see what you can learn.

Please stay in touch and let me know if you follow up on any of the suggestions in this letter. If I think of anything else, I will write again.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Meagher
302 West 12 Street
New York NY 10014

Enclosures (3)

P.S. In case of anything urgent, you can call me collect any evening at 212 Chelsea 2-4293.