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January 12, 1976

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CERTIFIED MAIL -
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Messrs. Paul L. Hoch, Peter Dale Scott
and Russell Stetler
424 North Street
Oakland, California 94609

Gentlemen:

I am writing in reply to your letter of December 20, 1975, which never reached me, and which evidently was resent to me on January 5, 1976. I object to any inclusion of my name as a "contributor" which implies a voluntary contribution on my part and which is an absolute misrepresentation of the truth.

Furthermore, you refer to two pieces which were submitted to the Rockefeller Commission in April, 1975, one of which I assume was submitted by Paul Hoch and the other by Bernard Fensterwald. On page 28 of the pre-publication announcement you state, "We are including two pieces which were submitted to the Commission in early April 1975. In both cases, Executive Director Belin responded by asking the authors about Lee Oswald's connection with the killing of Police Officer J. D. Tippit. The content of both pieces was ignored by the Commission, at least in its published report."

The allegation that "the content of both pieces was ignored by the Commission" is an outright lie. So is the implication that the only response involved Oswald's connection with the killing of Officer Tippit. Furthermore, both Fensterwald and O'Toole know this, and for your information, I am enclosing a copy of a July 29, 1975, letter sent to Mr. O'Toole with a copy to Mr. Fensterwald.

If you are publishing Sylvia Meagher's article which also appeared in the August 13, 1971, issue of The Texas Observer, or any other articles which refer to the total misrepresentation of facts concerning Givens' testimony by Sylvia Meagher, I insist that you correct the record to

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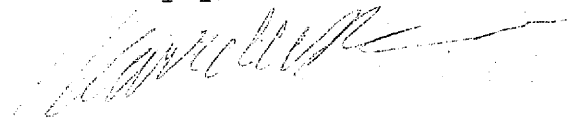
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show that according to an interview with Givens by the Secret Service as shown in Secret Service Document No. 491, Givens said that he saw Oswald on the sixth floor with a clipboard at around 11:45 a.m. on November 22, 1963. Nowhere in Meagher's article does she refer to the Secret Service interview, even though she refers to the February 25, 1964, report which Attorney Joseph Ball and I prepared in the course of our investigation and which called attention to the discrepancy between the FBI and Secret Service reports. On page 12 of The Texas Observer article, Meagher writes an outright lie when she says, "Now, for the first time, Givens tells the story" about going back to the sixth floor and then she states: "Did Belin thus passively and by omission become (sic) a party to collusion, perjury, and the suborning of false testimony?"

For you to repeat these false statements without setting forth the overall record and the fact that Meagher deliberately misrepresented the overall record amounts to a continued fraudulent cover-up. It also amounts to libel and slander.

There are many other misrepresentations which occur in the pre-publication announcement from Random House, which I shall not take the time to discuss at this point.

Sincerely yours,



David W. Belin

DWB:cs

Encl.

c.c. Random House