

2613 48th Place

Des Moines, Iowa 50310

January 30, 1980

Dear Ms. Sylvia Meagher,

I am presently a graduate student at Drake University, involved in a quantitative research project concerning the House Select Committee on Assassinations findings on the assassination of John F. Kennedy. The project is an outgrowth of a consuming interest during the last three years in the assassination controversy. Recognizing your importance in the field, I am interested in your opinions and reactions to many concerns which I have regarding the Committee report. I earlier sent a questionnaire in care of your publisher, having recieved no reply, I am concerned that perhaps it was not forwarded to you.

The enclosed questionnaire is the data gathering instrument which I have developed. Would you please take a few minutes and respond to those questions you deem relevant? Please feel free to support as many of your views as you wish; none of your responses will be quoted. The potential use of the responses will be writing a paper summarizing the current reactions of experts to the findings of the House Select Committee. In four to six weeks, I would be delighted to send you the raw statistics of the questionnaire if you wish a follow-up on your efforts in helping with the project.

Being a secondary social science teacher in the Des Moines schools, I intend to use the research to enhance the critical thinking of students. My curriculum in the last three years has incorporated a three-week unit covering the assassination controversy. In nine years of teaching, I have never presented a unit which has braodened the minds of young people so extensively.

Thank you for taking your valuable time in responding. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Jane Hildenbrand*





5. The surprising new testimony from Jack Ray Tatum suggests that Oswald gave Tippit a "coup de grace"<sup>2</sup> with a shot to the head at close range. This is supported by the Tippit autopsy report that one of the wounds slanted upwards from front to back.

A. Do you agree that Tatum's testimony is credible?

1	2	3	4	5
strongly agree	agree		disagree	strongly disagree

B. What significance do you place on this new testimony?

6. Only the Willis photograph number five was established as having a possible image of a human being in the area of the grassy knoll. The presence of a weapon in the picture was neither confirmed nor denied. The Moorman photograph was too poor in quality for enhancement. The Zapruder frame 41 and the Nix frames were discredited in relation to having a picture of the second gunman. Do you agree with the conclusions of the photographic research of the grassy knoll photographs that were presented to the Committee?

1	2	3	4	5
strongly agree	agree		disagree	strongly disagree

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2. Ibid., p. 59.



B. The Committee contends that Seth Kantor was probably not mistaken about seeing Jack Ruby at Parkland Hospital. However, they do not attempt to answer the question of why he was there. Do you agree that Ruby's presence at Parkland on November 22, indicates his involvement in a conspiracy?

1	2	3	4	5
strongly agree	agree		disagree	strongly disagree

10. Judge Burt W. Griffin admitted to the Committee that possible underworld connections to the assassination were 'not seriously explored'<sup>4</sup> by the Warren Commission. The Committee has built a circumstantial evidence case of complicity, if not conspiracy in the assassination, drawing connections between Ruby, Oswald, Ferrie, and Marcello. Do you agree that the conspiracy link in the assassination was forged by organized crime?

1	2	3	4	5
strongly agree	agree		disagree	strongly disagree

11. A strong question remains about the role that David Ferrie played in the assassination

A. If you agree that Ferrie played some role with the conspiracy, do you believe that connection to be:

1	2	3	4
Organized Crime	Anti- Castro	Personal Association	None

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4. Ibid., p. 207.

B. Do you find the testimony of the "Clinton witnesses" credible?

1	2	3	4	5
strongly agree	agree		disagree	strongly disagree

12. Speculation has surrounded the possible involvement of a pro-Castro individual or the Castro government in the assassination. Gilberto Policarpo Lopez, whose movements from Tampa (November 20, 1963) into Mexico (November 23rd) via Laredo, Texas, and on to Havana (November 27th) aboard a plane, being the sole passenger, were deemed as 'suspicious'<sup>5</sup> by the CIA. Incredibly, he was not thoroughly investigated in 1963 and 1964. Do you agree that Lopez, as a pro-Castro individual having connections with the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, had a role in the assassination?

1	2	3	4	5
strongly agree	agree		disagree	strongly disagree

13. Some have contended that Hoover was only interested in following up leads that supported Oswald as the lone assassin. Cases in point: the lack of active pursuit of the Homer S. Eshevarria case after the Secret Service dropped its investigation, nor requesting Oswald's military intelligence file before it was destroyed, and misinformation given concerning the Odio visit. Do you support that connection?

1	2	3	4	5
strongly agree	agree		disagree	strongly disagree

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5. Ibid., p. 137.

