

Dear Mrs. Meagher,

I'm sorry I kept you on the telephone for so long, and I feel a little guilty, as you told me that you are not in good health. By way of explanation (if not justification), I can only say that I consider you to be just about the most reliable and responsible source of information on this whole matter--and to get the chance to talk to you in such detail was a genuine privilege. Other than the very recent books by Summers and Hurt, no one has ever put together the whole picture the way you did--and the fact that they put the whole matter aside after raking in the profits, while you have maintained an active interest, speaks for itself.

I'm still thinking through your advice about writing about high-level involvement ~~and~~ Oswald's guilt or innocence. Without going into detail, I have to consider whether I could possibly write anything equal to what has already been written, and which would provide the reader with something truly worthwhile to ponder. And then there are my own personal situations--I, too, am not in good health, and cannot travel around like many field investigators have done. In addition, my personal situation is just not conducive ~~to~~ to re-immersing myself in this whole matter--the woman I am involved with finds my interest in the assassination somewhat weird, and most people I know, while disbelieving the Warren Report, none the less believe that my interests are impractical and unrealistic. ...But, most of all, the question remains, "Where do we go from here?" As much as I would like to believe otherwise, I tend to agree with you in regard to Banister, Ferrie, Brading, et. al.--if involved at all, they were merely "bit players", and, besides, there is no way to tie them definitively to anything. It may well be that they ~~were~~ were merely extremists who (like Marcello and Trafficante) would have liked to see Kennedy out of the picture, but who had no more to do with the events in Dallas than you or I had to do with Hinckley's shooting of Reagan. However, I would hesitate to accuse Johnson or Nixon or J. Edgar Hoover without something much more substantial. Indeed it may well be that Hoover believed he had to cover up to protect the FBI's image and his own place in history--the infamous Shanklin/Hosty incident may be traceable to nothing more than their boss's concern for his own self-image. ...Of course, a lot of this might become clearer if we could ever find out just what Oswald's role was in relation to Naval Intelligence, the CIA, etc., but I think it's clear that such information can be withheld as long ~~as~~ as such agencies deem it necessary.

So...I don't know if I'm in any position to write anything truly meaningful, but this much I can pledge to you, and to all the first-generation critics: I shall never abandon my interest in this matter, and will always discuss as much as I know with whoever will listen. Maybe some day I will strike a responsive chord with somebody, and that person may have the time, energy, resources, and stick-to-it-iveness to do something truly innovative. Those of us who live--or believe we live--for some purpose beyond mere survival and comfort must recognize that the question of the JFK assassination is not some meaningless quest for trivia (such as whether Eva Braun and Hitler took arsenic together before he shot himself), but a quest for truth at the deepest level--for if our government has really lied to us for all these years, then there is truly something rotten and evil beneath the surface which, if not healed, may in its latter-day manifestations lead to events far more sinister than the murder of a single individual. The traumatic emotions that I still feel after 23 years were not so much caused by the murder of President Kennedy (or Tippit, or Oswald), as by the fraud that has been perpetrated on us all--indeed on the whole world--by arrogant people in positions of power. And I am thankful to you, and to all the "critics", for your mind-boggling labors in the face of almost superhuman opposition, and even danger to your own safety. May those of us who have listened never forget!

⊗ UNLESS ONE WANTS TO POSIT THAT THE GOVERNMENT COVERED TO PROTECT ITS CONNECTION TO SUCH BADLY DERANGED PEOPLE, AND ALSO TO AVOID EXPOSURE OF THE CIA - MAFIA PLOTS.

Sincerely,  
*Richard P. Edelman*  
Richard P. Edelman

P.S. - JUST AN INTERESTING "ASIDE": DID YOU KNOW THAT HENRY HURT ASSISTED IN EDWARD J. EPSTEIN'S LEGEND? (EPSTEIN'S INTRODUCTION EVEN MENTIONS HIS ASSISTANCE.) AND BOTH DEDICATED THEIR BOOKS TO FULTON CURSLER, JR. - WHO IS EITHER THE FAMOUS AUTHOR OF THE BIBLE-BASED GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD, OR HIS SON OF THE SAME NAME. MIGHT THERE NOT BE SOME COLLUSION HERE? HURT'S BOOK WAS SO USEFUL; I HESITATE TO CRITICIZE HIM - BUT NONE THE LESS I HAVE TO WONDER...