

1735 Highland Place, Apt. 25
Berkeley, Ca. 94709
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Ms Sylvia Meagher
302 W. 12 St.
NYC, NY 10014

Dear Sylvia,

I have just received (from Jim Lesar) a copy of your Observer article, Belin's reply, and the subsequent three letters, and I want to congratulate you on a fine piece of work.

My impression is that Givens' testimony may well be more important than a "small and not very sensational footnote," as the editor suggested. If any of this were to happen today, there would be little doubt that the police were putting together a story to convict Oswald, using perjured testimony whenever they needed it. Your argument was straightforward and persuasive, which of course was no surprise to me. I was, however, quite astonished by Belin's reply. I know that any competent lawyer would make such an argument in a summation to a not-too-aware jury when he had no facts on his side. But I would not have thought that Belin would be foolish enough to put it in writing. It does leave the impression that he was, in fact, not smart enough to see that there may have been serious funny business - subornation of perjury - in Givens' story. Res ipsa loquitur is exactly right. Non compos mentis also?

Since we stopped corresponding (on a regrettably sour note, after the now-moribund melon business), I have been working quite hard on physics. Also, I have been laying the groundwork for a couple of possible suits under the Freedom of Information Act, for some of the important material the FBI had on Oswald and suppressed from the Commission. I hope to be through with my thesis within three months, and then I will consider putting some full-time work into a possible book, focusing on Oswald and the FBI, and how the Commission handled the problem. If I decide to go ahead with this project, I hope I will be able to have the benefit of your advice and opinions. In any case it is good to know that you are still interested in the case and that the field has not been entirely abandoned to the irresponsibles.

Sincerely yours,

Paul

Paul L. Hoch