

10 November 1971

Mr Paul Hoch
1735 Highland Place (Apt 25)
Berkeley 94709

Dear Paul,

I must thank you for your kind remarks about my article on Charles Givens. Like you, I thought that Belin's so-called reply was sheer folly and that he would have been better advised to remain silent, as Joseph Ball did when the Texas Observer offered him the same opportunity to comment, and as other Commission members and lawyers did when I wrote them in 1964-1965 on specific points of evidence.

As for the cessation of our correspondence, I cannot pretend that my feelings did not underge an extreme change in the aftermath of the shock of reading your melon paper. I would even say, an irreversible change, although I hesitate to be quite so categorical about anything. I have been characterized as "intolerant" -- by a Commission lawyer who objected to the inferences I drew from the misstatements in the WR, and later by a number of critics who had become my very close friends, who objected to my criticisms of Garrison (especially my public criticisms). The resultant breach with Salandria, Maggie Field, and others has never been healed and will not be, the mere so because no personal estrangement had occurred but differences of principle which are fundamental and on which I am simply incapable of yielding. As someone wrote me recently in quite another context, to forgive and forget in a spirit of charity is a rotten way to go through life. If it was not, we might all forgive the Warren Commission and the Belins.

Time may still prove to be a healer but I must admit that I can no more understand how you could have become involved in the melon business today than I could understand it when I first read your paper.

Sincerely yours,