

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78712

June 11, 1966

Dear Miss Meagher -

Sprry to be so late in answering your letter of, heavens, Feb. 3rd; have been teaching a course in history & criticism of cinema down here and it's been absorbing; now it's over and I shortly return North..... I don't really know what if anything I will do about that project of making a book on the Assassination and the Report, with my Esquire article as a base. I put it aside last spring when I began to run into puzzles about the autopsy findings, entry and exit wounds, the 2-shots-in-less-than-2-seconds-Zapruder-film business, and such things which I simply couldn't decide without a lot more ~~and~~ forensic-medical and ballistics knowledge than I had, (or a ~~very long~~/long, tedious job of the kind of research ~~and~~ with questionings of god knows how many experts, including yourself# - that at my advanced age I just don't want to get involved with.) ~~the~~ ~~And there was the complete absence of any leads to a second assassin or a conspiracy, so that even if these forensic criticisms WERE valid, perhaps it would come down to the point I had made in the Esquire piece, that the Commission did a poor job. (Glad to know, by the way, that my piece is used more by the critics than the defenders of the Report.) So I put it aside; if I revive it, as a different sort of book, I'll certainly take advantage of your kind offer to consult you and see some of your material. And maybe I will do something after all - touche on more worthwhile than demolishing T. Wolfe, that was something I got over-involved with, to say the least, because I knew the New Yorker situation and because~~

as a professional journalist I couldn't stand by and see him doing dirt on ~~my~~ our standards and getting away with it. I've just seen that Epstein book and it makes me think perhaps I SHOULD do something of a general review and evaluation - ~~he~~ now that what appears to be a non-demonological, objective critique comes down so hard and ~~is~~ firm on the two-assassins side - also I was shocked by the data he gave about the political bias of the Commission, their what I can only call frivolity when confronted with the possibility, or more, of a second assassin. (I see he drew on your material.) Well, must think about it. Thanks again for your letter, and will call on you when and if.....

Yours,


Dwight Macdonald