

17 March 1967

Mr. Lawrence A. Murphy
350 Rye Beach Avenue
Rye, New York 10580

My dear Mr. Murphy,

You pose rather a staggering question. I wonder if you have considered the disadvantage you impose on yourself in undertaking now, quite a few years later than other researchers, a complete study of the Warren Report. I would not discourage you in this plan but I do think you should consider the time element, and the inevitable prospect of finding, at the end of your study, that everything or almost everything that exposes the inaccuracy and unreliability of the Report will have been in print already, for varying lengths of time.

Even today, a number of major critical works have been before the public, in some cases for more than a year. I have in mind the books by Sylvan Fox, Epstein, Mark Lane, Sauvage, and Harold Weisberg. Still to come, later this year, are a new book or books by Weisberg, and at least three others, including my own book. There would seem to me to be little opportunity to break new ground, when even the contents of the National Archives are already being integrated into the critical literature, and when the investigation in New Orleans is turning up information hitherto unknown and inaccessible to the individual non-official researcher.

You should not underestimate the time required for the complete study you contemplate. My own study of the available evidence was done between November 1964 and March 1966, and did not take into account the then-unavailable documentation in the Archives, which is now enormous in its dimensions. A "complete study" initiated at this point in history would require the mastery of the Warren Report--proper; the 26 volumes of the Hearings and Exhibits; the unpublished Commission documents numbering many, many thousands of pages which must be read at the Archives in Washington, and the considerable body of critical literature, both books and shorter studies in the form of monographs and articles.

I am sorry that pressure of time does not permit me to elaborate further. If I can offer any additional guidance, I should willingly do so--preferably by telephone as I have no secretarial assistance. You can reach me, if you feel that I might give you anything more without requiring a great deal of time, at 212-Chelsea 2-4293 evenings. While I realize that the burden of this letter is mainly negative, I do wish you the best of luck in your project, if you proceed with it, but hope that you will consider concentrating on one or two specific elements, in depth, instead of covering the entire gamut.

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Meagher