

24 March 1967

Mr. Thayer Waldo
University of the Americas
P.O. Box 968
Mexico 1, D.F.

Dear Mr. Waldo,

Thank you for sending me a copy of your essay on the assassination, which I read with great interest. I wrote to you, about two years ago, at your Fort Worth address, but you must have left for Mexico before it reached you. I no longer remember why I wrote at that time, probably it was on a point of evidence —no matter. Last summer, Penn Jones was here and we met for the first time, after a friendship by correspondence. I asked him then to send me your address but of course he forgot.

The reason I asked for your address was to follow up on something Penn Jones told me and which is not mentioned in your recent essay. Penn suggests that after you gave your testimony in Dallas in June 1964, you were called to Washington, D.C. for further questioning. Did you actually give formal testimony a second time? Was it before the Warren Commission, or to one of its lawyers? Or was it only an interview, or an off-the-record conversation? If you feel able to give me any information on this matter, which is potentially important (i.e., if formal testimony has been suppressed), I should be most grateful.

You did not mention in your essay the strange affair of Mike Howard and his brother. When I first read the FBI reports on your controversy with them, I was filled with admiration at the way you had handled your end of it, as I had also admired your testimony in Vol. XV, which showed that you were an acute observer and independent in your thinking. It was, and is, inconceivable to me that after your description of Lt. Butler's demeanor on 11/24/63 the Warren Commission did not regard it as necessary even to question him. That was "fact-finding"? I have drawn on this, by the way, in my book on the Warren Report, "Accessories After the Fact," which will be published in the fall by Bobbs-Merrill & Co.

One further question which troubles me and which you alone can answer: it has to do with Mark Lane's famous allegation of a meeting between Ruby, Tippit, and Weissman at the Carousel Club about two weeks before the assassination. Lane always takes the position that he was bound to withhold the name of the witness to that alleged meeting but that if the Commission really wanted to find out, they needed only to have asked you. He leads one to assume that the Commission knew that you had brought Lane together with the unnamed witness but I have not found anything in the record to sustain that. Lane himself did not give the Commission your name, at least not according to the transcript of his testimony. To your knowledge, did the Commission know that you were Lane's source of information about that witness? Is that the matter on which you were called to Washington after your Dallas deposition? Or did they never ask you about this alleged meeting? Again, I shall be grateful for any light you feel able to throw on this mystery. With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Meagher
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