

DUANE BRADLEY SANBORN

OLD WARNER ROAD

HENNIKER, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03242

PHONE: 428-7740

September 3, 1968

Mrs. Sylvia Meagher
302 West 12 Street
New York, N Y 10014

Dear Mrs. Meagher:

A number of recent events have made me think of you a great deal since I feel that you understand a lot more about what is happening than is revealed in public print. If events ever bring me to New York I would love to have the opportunity to talk with you in person. (This isn't too likely, since most of my editors are as fond of New Hampshire as I am, and tend to come to visit us rather than urge me to come to their offices.) Perhaps you like New Hampshire, too - if you are ever in this vicinity, please let me know, will you?

Sometimes I suspect that my use of words may give the impression that I am rather naive, and thus painfully surprised at every evidence of lack of integrity in both private and public life, and that is why I am so astonished by the Warren Commission Report and the reaction of America to it. That isn't quite true, as I know from experience how unimportant the basic issue of right and wrong is to almost everyone, except in a pinch, when most of us are still apt to have a rather cloudy view of the subject, but I am still extremely baffled by this subject.

I recently read Mark Lane's new book, and the review of it, probably the one in the Times, since I don't always keep up with Saturday review. Mark Lane's total credibility doesn't impress me as being without flaw, but the reviewer said he had checked on four points made in the book and found them all false. Lane had accused various people of being reluctant to publish his first book, to interview him on Open End, etc., and when these people were asked they denied his version. This is all very well, and may be true, but on the other hand if it were true that they had been influenced to keep him silent they would hardly admit it, would they?

The Earl Ray-Martin Luther King matter also seems peculiar to me. As soon as the farmer was identified as a suspect, pictures of him began appearing in newspapers and magazines and for a while each picture looked as if it were of a different person. The press seems

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to have settled now on one picture, which makes him look like a mild-mannered insurance salesman and not in the least like the personality described in stories of his life. I grew up in the middle west where there are many small time criminals of the type he is supposed to be, and they bear no resemblance to the kind of person these later pictures show, and not one of them would have been likely to shoot a public figure such as Dr. King because of political or racial beliefs. A column by Drew Pearson also astonished me (I spend a lot of my time lately being astonished). Pearson explained at great length that Ray had gotten that other-wise unaccounted for money from a very profitable bank robbery, and had also been in England before. Isn't there a famous quotation from someone as to how many incredible facts one can be expected to accept without questioning?

Is there any source from which one can learn even a part of the truth?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Duane Sanborn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "D".