

12 October 1970

Mr. Doug Outcalt  
6720 E. Culver  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85257

Dear Mr. Outcalt,

I have read your letter of the 8th with interest, and much appreciation for your generous remarks about Accessories and the Subject Index. I am always gratified to know that the latter work, despite its shortcomings, is in use and is helpful. Let me try to answer the questions you posed, even if I do so briefly and with some degree of hesitation.

According to Lifton's statements to me and to others, he has very important and, so to speak, earthshaking evidence not known to any other critics or students of the case. I do not, however, know just what he has, nor would I necessarily rely confidently on his judgment of the crucial character of his information. But even if he does have compelling and conclusive evidence of a conspiracy and/or of Oswald's innocence, we need not dance in the streets. I have become convinced that Lifton will never get around to sharing or publishing his "bombshell(s)"—which I believe he has had in hand as long ago as mid-1966—for reasons which seem to be rooted in his personality or his psychological structure. My impression, for what it is worth, is that he has a need to prolong his researches indefinitely, so as to avoid the "next chapter" in his own life and the assumption of adult responsibilities and a different, less exciting set of ~~prephannabditen~~ conflicts. But even if he ever does "finish" his work, there is no guarantee of a publisher; and if he does find a publisher, there is still no guarantee that his discoveries will not be ignored completely by the mass media (who have always been highly predisposed to press-agent the Warren Report and the lone assassin) and by the public at large, whose basic indifference and short attention-span is manifest.

I did not know that the Charach suit had been dropped. I found the brief rather ambiguous and unconvincing and I am told by contacts of mine who met Charach recently in New York that he makes rather an unfortunate impression. In a nutshell, he seemed to be an unsavory individual whose overriding motivation was to get hold of a big chunk of money in exchange for information he claimed to have. However, there is, fortunately, much more sound and serious information suggestive of a conspiracy in the RFK assassination—a book just published, which I am in course of reading, and which I recommend to you and your group: RFK Must Die! by Robert Blair Kaiser, E.P. Dutton & Co., New York, \$9.95 or \$10.00.

Much as I like Fred Newcomb (whom I know mainly by correspondence and phone), I do not always find his theories plausible, as I have indicated to Fred himself. I discussed the air-injection theory with Dr. Cyril Wecht, who was familiar with Oswald's autopsy report, and he did not support that hypothesis at all, nor did he corroborate a story that seems to have originated with Lifton to the effect that he, Wecht, had encouraged such a theory in the course of a conversation some time ago.

About the Fensterwald "CIA", I have twice emphatically declined to become a member, since I want in no way to be associated with some of the buffoons, psychos, and degenerates who were instrumental in organizing the committee or who are closely attached to it in one way or another. For similar reasons, I cannot fill you in on what is going on in the critics' community—for the last several years, I have become increasingly alienated from various individual critics, increasingly disheartened and disgusted by their lapses of judgment, honesty, and plain decency. Perhaps the single most bitter experience of my life has been the erosion of my respect and friendships with a good number of the critics and pseudo-critics.

For a few, I still feel high regard and considerable trust, but they are truly few and most of them have gone on to other work, largely out of the realization (which finally I am also confronting) that there is simply nothing more that we can do with any hope of a breakthrough. Personally, I suspect that I have done everything within my own capacity; and I know that I am intellectually and emotionally exhausted and very nearly hopeless, about the case and about the country.

It is this dejection that caused me to feel hesitant about replying to your questions at all—I wanted to be as frank as possible in writing to a stranger about rather delicate relationships and situations, on the one hand, and on the other hand, I was very reluctant to discourage or even to appear to discourage the interest and energy which you and your group might invest in the case.

In the last analysis, however, I felt that I should simply be honest with you, and hope that you will not be deterred. Heaven knows that the case needs new insight, fresh injections of energy...but I cannot suggest how you can best attack the subject, for if I saw any hope or knew of what more could usefully be done, I would be trying to do it.

I am truly sorry to be of so little help in responding to your letter. Perhaps you should contact some others who have been working on the case since the early days and who may have more positive ideas to offer. Certainly, I wish you and your group every possible success.

Sincerely yours,

Sylvia Meagher  
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