

14 February 1971

Dear Mr Edelman,

Your description of the ivory tower "scholars" obsessed with the decline and fall of the New England merchant community but disdainful of the historical importance of the JFK assassination should have aroused my disbelief. Somehow it is quite credible and therefore arouses my relief--on the score that the depression and other circumstances spared me any serious or prolonged contact with the academic world. I had a few years of night college but when I found that I was learning far more at work during the day than in the evening courses, I quit. Largely through luck, I have not been handicapped by the lack of a degree, which has now assumed such an overweening and artificial importance in almost all personnel recruitment.

But this is really to reply to your two post-scripts. Personally I have never entertained any suspicion of Thornley, dire hints from certain other critics notwithstanding, and your comment that the transcript does not differ materially from the printed testimony confirms my impression that Thornley-chasing is nothing but a paranoic waste of time.

In any case, I'm not doing any work on the assassination these days. Unless something really startling and unforeseen comes up, I do not see what I can usefully do. Sauvage and Thompson have withdrawn even more decisively, some time ago, and I think wisely, since permanent preoccupation in this quagmire seems to produce a distinct impairment of judgment and balance.

Among the still-active critics, money seems to be conspicuous by its lack. I feel certain no one of them is in a position to pay a researcher, and some would gladly accept donations of funds or services.

Again, I seem to have been negative in responding to your questions. But I do agree with you that there may be answers, if not easy ones, and even some happiness in the struggle to find them.

With sincere good wishes,

Sylvia Meagher
302 West 12 Street
NYC 10014