

10 June 1968

Mr. Lawrence M. Bensky
Managing Editor
Ramparts
301 Broadway
San Francisco, Calif. 94133

Dear Mr. Bensky,

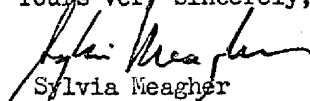
This will acknowledge the letter of 6 June 1968 sent to me by Jan Austin on your behalf, and express my thanks for your courtesy in sending me the June 29 issue with Bill Turner's article on the Kennedy and King assassinations. There are, I believe, two minor errors in the article: On page 34, column 2, line 5, "Galt" is said to have abandoned a car in Birmingham, Alabama; it was actually left in Atlanta, Georgia. On page 36, column 1, paragraph 3, lines 4 and 5, "Galt" actually claimed that he had worked at the Ingalls Shipbuilding Corporation at Pascagoula, Mississippi—not New Orleans.

In light of the changed situation following from the second Kennedy assassination last week, and the arrest in London of the alleged assassin of Martin Luther King two days ago, you will no doubt reconsider the plan to establish a citizens' committee suggested by Mr. Turner in his article, or reformulate it so as to take into account the new circumstances. In the event that you do intend to go forward with this idea, I should perhaps take this opportunity to indicate my position.

Although I would be willing, in principle, to join in such an effort (as I indicated in my telegram of 30 April 1968), regretfully I would have to decline to participate in any committee which explicitly or implicitly associated itself with the New Orleans district attorney or which included Warren Report critics who cooperate with the Garrison "investigation." I believe that it is well known in the critical community that I consider the New Orleans "investigation" a sordid and dangerous fishing expedition which engages in fabrication of evidence, harassment, entrapment, and demagoguery. I am deeply disappointed that such crude chicanery is regarded as serious and worthy, and given regular and uncritical coverage, by Ramparts—a publication which exerts very considerable influence on public opinion, and among whose editors there are many prestigious writers and national figures who rightly command the greatest respect and the highest reputation. When the New Orleans "investigation" is exposed, as I am convinced it soon will be, as destitute of evidence or logic and steeped in unscrupulous practices, its advocates and enthusiasts inevitably will share in some degree its discredit in the eyes of the public.

I have taken the liberty of elaborating my views on this question not so much in the hope of persuading Ramparts to reexamine its stand as to satisfy myself that at least I tried. Experience has taught me that it is no less difficult to argue with those who have invested faith in the New Orleans prosecutor than with those who will go to their end insisting that the Warren Report is correct. But both are wretched and repugnant frauds, as will irresistably come to be recognized.

Yours very sincerely,


Sylvia Meagher

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