

17 June 1968

Mr. A. C. Sectorsky
Editorial Director
PLAYBOY
919 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Ill. 60611

Dear Mr. Sectorsky,

Postscript to Truman Capote interview

Surprise, surprise! Just a few short months ago Truman Capote told PLAYBOY that "the Warren Report is correct. Oswald, acting alone, killed the President. And that's it." Capote, like Dwight Macdonald before him, imperiously said the "last word on the Warren Report," only to develop a bad case of hiccups upon suddenly swallowing his final verdict.

Capote now acknowledges that the Dallas assassination may have been a conspiracy after all (New York Times, June 15, 1968). He was moved to reverse himself as to the sacrosanctity of the Warren Report by the appalling assassinations of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy, not by a conscientious critical examination of the official records of the Warren Commission.

Since Capote's change of heart is uninformed, no less than his earlier orthodoxy, and evidences merely the same disdain for fact and evidence which characterizes other lazy and intellectually undisciplined exhibitionists, who claim infallibility for the rather sorry products of personal intuition or fantasy, I am not overjoyed by the hint of his capitulation to the camp of the critics of the Warren Report. Nor have I formed an opinion about the latest two assassinations, since the evidence remains fragmentary and uncertain.

I would only point out that it would be graceful if Mr. Capote, having advanced to the point of conceding the possibility of conspiracy in the Dallas assassination, would now retract his description of critics of the Warren Report (or some of them) as "a bunch of vultures that has discovered that pecking at the carrion of a dead President is an easy way to make a living." Sauce for the goose is, after all, sauce for the vulture.

Yours sincerely,

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

Published in Oct 1968 issue
- filed under "Members - published letters to Editors"
17 June 1968

Mr. A. C. Spector
Editorial Director
PLAYBOY
919 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Ill. 60611

Dear Mr. Spector,

Postscript to Truman Capote interview

Surprise, surprise! Just a few short months ago Truman Capote told PLAYBOY, ~~that~~ "the Warren Report is correct. Oswald, acting alone, killed the President. And that's it." Capote, like Dwight Macdonald before him, imperiously said "the last word on the Warren Report," only to develop a bad case of hiccups upon suddenly swallowing his final verdict.

Capote now acknowledges that the Dallas assassination may have been a conspiracy after all (New York Times, June 15, 1968). He was moved to reverse himself as to the sacrosanctity of the Warren Report by the appalling assassinations of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy, not by a conscientious critical examination of the official records of the Warren Commission.

~~Since~~ Capote's change of heart is uninformed, no less than his earlier orthodoxy, and evidences merely the same disdain for fact and evidence, ~~which characterizes other lazy and intellectually undisciplined exhibitionists, who claim infallibility for the rather sorry products of personal intuition or fantasy,~~ I am not overjoyed by the hint of his capitulation to the camp of the critics of the Warren Report. Nor have I formed an opinion about the latest two assassinations, since the evidence remains fragmentary and uncertain.

I would only point out that it would be graceful if Mr. Capote, having advanced to the point of conceding the possibility of conspiracy in the Dallas assassination, would now retract his description of critics of the Warren Report (or some of them) as "a bunch of vultures that has discovered that pecking at the carrion of a dead President is an easy way to make a living." Sauce for the goose is, after all, sauce for the vulture.

Yours sincerely,

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

in his March interview

According to Jack Gould, who in June in an NYT TV column (quote)