

27 June 1968

Mr. I. F. Stone  
5618 Nebraska Ave. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20015

Dear Mr. Stone,

Your comment in the June 24th issue of the Weekly that "enough has come to light clearly to show a conspiracy in the killing of Martin Luther King and very possibly of Robert Kennedy" is arresting, if I may say so, especially when you acknowledge that you "have resisted the conspiracy theory in the killing of John F. Kennedy" and apparently continue to resist it.

I agree with you that the known evidence in the King assassination distinctly justifies the impression that he was the victim of a careful, well-planned, and sophisticated conspiracy. In the Robert Kennedy assassination, there is as yet little solid evidence on which to reach any conclusion, although the pattern of the Kennedy and King assassinations in itself demands that the possibility of conspiracy should not be fore-closed as yet.

The one assassination in which there is incontrovertible evidence of conspiracy is that of John F. Kennedy, and that evidence is found mainly in the Warren Commission's published testimony and exhibits and in its papers and physical evidence in the custody of the National Archives. The Warren Report has been completely invalidated and discredited in the literature, in such works as INQUEST by Edward Jay Epstein, SIX SECONDS IN DALLAS by J. D. Thompson, and my own book ACCESSORIES AFTER THE FACT.

More than three years ago I appealed to you, in the name of our mutual friend, the late Albert Deutsch, to reconsider your first impression of the Warren Report and your anger at those who questioned it. During the time that has elapsed, the force of the facts brought to light by the critics has compelled many advocates of the Report --including Harrison Salisbury, Max Lerner, and Alistair Cooke among others--to acknowledge that their confidence in the Report was misplaced and to express serious doubt about the official conclusions. You are still resisting what you call "the conspiracy theory" but what is in fact the proof of conspiracy, although you are willing to confront the apparent conspiracy in the King case and the possible conspiracy in the Robert Kennedy case.

How is one to understand this? Can those who feel anguish at the murder of innocent Vietnam be indifferent to the murder of an innocent Lee Harvey Oswald, or to the immunity enjoyed by the real assassins of President Kennedy? The evidence and arguments set forth by the serious critics has in no way been challenged or discredited, least of all by

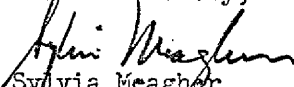
spokesmen for the Warren Commission or by its silent Chairman. If your "resistance" is based on an impartial study of the official evidence or of the major critical works, then I must say, without intending to give offense, that there is no indication of informed judgment in your comments, and certainly no refutation of any of the main critical arguments.

Much in Earl Warren's record as Chief Justice is admirable, but it is mistaken loyalty to deny the plain evidence of his malfeasance as Chairman of the Warren Commission. I have the impression, perhaps mistakenly, that your position on the Warren Report is predicated on your high regard for its Chairman. Yet I do not believe that truth or justice may be sacrificed for any man's sake, and least of all for the sake of the eminent guardian of justice who betrayed his trust.

Those of us who for years have been striving to secure a reopening of the Dallas assassination have warned that to leave the Warren Report on record as the official history was to invite new assassinations. I have given that warning in print, in my book and in an article published in the June 1968 issue of *The Minority of One*, just before the assassination of Robert Kennedy.

Those who have "resisted the conspiracy theory" in the face of the conspiracy facts must ask themselves if they, too, have not invited new assassinations. Events are too grim for mere anger and recrimination, and in writing this letter I am not animated by such feelings but by the duty of appealing to you, once again, to reconsider the assassination of President Kennedy in the light of the evidence--not alone of the crime, but of the consequences of a fraudulent "solution" of that crime.

Yours sincerely,

  
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