

LIFE

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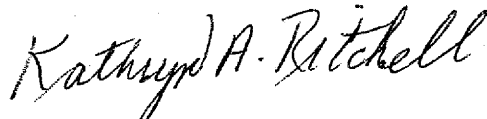
Dear Miss Meagher:

My apologies for this much delayed reply to your letter, prompted by LIFE's coverage of the assassinations of Dr. King and President Kennedy. May I take this opportunity to assure you that we share your concern about the necessity of exposing all the facts and the people behind these tragic slayings, as well as that of Senator Kennedy. If you review our record, you'll see that we've discussed in detail the possibility of a conspiracy in President Kennedy's assassination. Articles I believe you'd find particularly interesting appeared in our October 2, 1964 issue reporting the Warren Commission; in our November 25, 1966 discussion of doubts concerning the Warren Report in which we concluded that the case about Kennedy's killers should be reopened.

In reference to your comments about LIFE's February 21, 1964 cover photograph of Lee Harvey Oswald, I would like to assure you that although LIFE touched up the shadows we in no way retouched the man or the gun.

I hope you'll agree upon review of our May 3 cover report reconstructing the past of James Ray, our examination of his youth of poverty, rejection, rootlessness and hunger goes a long way towards understanding the behavior of a misfit and a drifter who became a criminal. I hope you saw our further report about Ray in the June 21 lead story including comments on the possibility of conspiracy.

Sincerely yours,



Kathryn A. Ritchell
for the Editors

KAR:dd