

9 May 1969

The Editors  
The Nation  
333 Sixth Avenue  
New York City 10014

Dear Sirs,

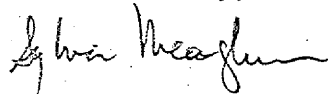
According to Fred Cook, a district attorney and a president of Harvard as well as various police officials and experts concealed and tortured vital evidence in order to convict Sacco and Vanzetti for a murder they never did, because they were anarchists. Mr. Cook suggests also malfeasance or miscarriage of justice in the trials of Alger Hiss, William Remington, and the Rosenbergs.

Who could believe such un-American nonsense? The next thing you know, people like Fred Cook will go so far as to cast doubt upon a district attorney like Henry Wade of Dallas, or its police department...or try to undermine eyewitness identifications by such credible witnesses as Helen Louise Markham and Howard Leslie Brennan...or the wondrous Warren Report Itself.

Fred Cook really should not postulate such an outlandish idea as the systematic misuse of the American judicial process, or prestigious ad hoc investigative bodies, in order to frame innocent victims who committed no crimes but who harbored unpopular political notions. In a framework like the American system of justice (the greatest in human history, of course, like our other institutions), it is inconceivable that Sacco, Vanzetti, the Rosenbergs, Mooney, Billings, Hiss, Remington, and Lee Harvey Oswald were framed.

Having made such offensive suggestions, I suppose that Mr. Cook will not hesitate to go to the extreme of arguing that James Earl Ray was not the lone assassin of Memphis. And who could possibly believe a thing like that?

Yours sincerely,



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