

1 November 1966

Mr. Gordon R. Pollard  
Political Science Director  
Alma Mater Society of the  
University of Victoria  
2825 Shelbourne Street  
Victoria, B.C.

Dear Mr. Pollard,

Thank you for your prompt and considerate letter. I take pleasure in accepting your generous invitation to discuss the Warren Report on the 12th of January 1967, subject only to my obtaining formal agreement from the head of my office to my absenting myself from duty for the two or perhaps three days required for the trip to Victoria. I anticipate no difficulty in obtaining such consent but as the head is away on duty travel for the next week or so, this formality will have to await his return.

Meanwhile, I feel sure that you may proceed with any necessary arrangements on the assumption that I will honor the commitment for the 12th; and I will write again when my leave of absence is confirmed.

It occurred to me after our telephone conversation that if I do have the pleasure of visiting Victoria, I should take advantage of the opportunity by seeking to locate a mysterious witness to the events of Dallas on the day of the assassination, a man who was then resident in Victoria but visiting in Texas. Some months later (in March 1964) this man telephoned a Dallas police sergeant and stated that he had filmed the motorcade and the shooting, offering to provide the film. There the trail ends, so far as the official records of the Warren Commission are concerned. The man's name is Ralph Simpson; he placed the call to Dallas from a number listed as that of R. H. W. Smels, 1141 Caledonia; and the record slip includes also the following phrase: "their attorney General Batten." Perhaps you would consult the telephone directory to see if there is a listing for Simpson or for the other names; or if you are inclined to a bit of detective work, see what there is to be found out about the chap, without putting him on guard. If there was any possibility of a talk with the man, I would plan to stay an extra day or more for that purpose—that is why I mention the matter at all, now. In any case, please let's keep it just between us for the moment.

Incidentally, I hope that I did not give the impression of any lukewarmness about Penn Jones when we spoke on the phone—we digressed, I think, and perhaps I did not communicate adequately my great regard for Penn's sincerity, courage, and excellence in the task he has set himself.

Finally, I should perhaps mention that an article of mine will appear in a few weeks in the December issue of ESQUIRE; and a review of four books on the Warren Report, in the next issue of STUDIES ON THE LEFT, due about the second or third week of this month.

With kind regards, and thanks for your thoughtfulness,

Sylvia Meagher

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