

23 June 66

Dear Miss Meagher,

Want to thank you for your promptness in answering my inquiry to T.M.A. re: Subject Index to Warren Report. also for list of errata which I will incorporate into "Index" when I get same. Pardon my writing — do not have typewriter here.

I have been extremely "frustrated", since the word was first flashed that "a member of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee had killed President Kennedy", and made up my mind at that time to stay "on" the matter till the killings were solved to my satisfaction + the loose ends cleared up. How ambitious that now seems!

You ask about "any work I have done in the field". I bought the entire Report as soon as it was available, and have spent literally hundreds of hours combing it for leads, inserting markers, underlining, splicing up notes, and finally making my own index of subjects and persons requiring further study or investigation, + their location in the Report. All this as a private person working alone. My work has been "from the left" — in contrast to that of a Commission dependent on reports of the Dallas police + FBI. An unequal battle.

Of course I have kept up with the newspaper + magazine articles, and books etc. bearing on the subject. I must say that the great bulk of this material has proven a terrible disappointment. Most of it was ground out in a hurry + displayed little more than the bias or paranoia of the authors. (over)

The Sylvan Fox book seemed a fair attempt; Buchanan + Joesten much worse than useless because of the harm done by a wide distribution of so much third-rate second-guessing, hazy + unsound theorizing + just plain drivel.

It was easy for the Warren Comm. to poke holes in this kind of work, though their method in doing so was often dishonest, as Mark Lane had pointed out. An interesting indication, by the way, of the Commission's "defensiveness."

I look forward to Edward Jay Epstein's Cornell master's thesis due out 29 June + will get it when able (Right now am "out of work"). Hope it's on a higher level than the rest.

I look forward to receiving your Index + will check it against the work I've done to see what I've missed.

Can you recommend any other works on the subject?

For about a year I was highly optimistic that the case could be "busted", especially because of the way Mark Lane rolled up his sleeves + plunged into it. For this reason I didn't follow through on some ideas I had to get things rolling by inserting newspaper ads cross-country (lots of them, if only 3-liners in the Personal Columns) + using interested citizens in committees to analyze the leads, tips, hunches thus garnered; sort out the 90% that proved worthless + send the rest to a depot for correlation.

Now I'm beginning to wonder! To my knowledge, Lanes book was never brought out (by Grove Press?) He was subject to harassment & eventual financial difficulties because of his efforts, and I suppose this is why they had to 'take' it off. Nevertheless we are greatly indebted to him.

I am fairly well convinced that the true story has not been told. (Is not known?) Salandria's article in "Liberation" reinforced my conviction. Maybe Fred Cook in "Nation" will get the pot boiling again.

Am sure a lot of determined research has been done in the matter by a goodly number of intelligent persons across the country, operating for various reasons. Something should be done to correlate it (should have been done much earlier). Maybe you have the kind of connections & facilities back there to get things done. The "Index" was a much-needed project — I found the Commission index virtually useless for my purposes & the Report itself haphazardly organized — or rather, thrown together. Mr. Armoni would be interested in this kind of project.

When I check my notes against your index I will find a typewriter & send my work on to you. Perhaps you will be able to mimeo or ditto it & put it in the hands of others interested in the matter, and some kind of an exchange bureau can be set up there, so that all the private hard work done and being done can be organized.

(over)

I of course expect no gain or credit  
for my efforts in this; only hope to be  
useful in getting to the bottom of the Dallas killings.

Sincerely,

Jim Schmitt

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