

15 November 1966

Mr. Jack Gould
The New York Times
229 West 43 Street
New York, N.Y. 10036

Dear Mr. Gould,

It was startling to read in your column yesterday that you were favorably impressed by the remarks made some weeks ago by Louis Nizer on a radio program on WMCA in defense of the Warren Report and that you considered his comments "in the interest of viewers' information and education." Nothing could be farther from the truth.

Nizer failed to confront the central criticisms of the Warren Report published in recent months--namely, the contradictions between the official autopsy report and three FBI reports, and the incompatibility between the condition of the stretcher bullet and the role attributed to it by the Commission.

Completely ignoring those issues, Nizer attributed to the critics of the Warren Report charges relating to a funeral rehearsal by the Army two weeks before the assassination. Not a single one of the books challenging the Warren Report has ever dignified that absurd rumor (which originated in the John Birch Society and organs of the ultra-right) by mentioning it. The rumor is discussed in the testimony of Professor Revilo Oliver (Hearings, Volume XV) and in the "speculations and rumors" appendix to the Warren Report. But no one of the recognized critics (Epstein, Lane, Sauvage, Weisberg, Popkin, Jones, etc.) has raised such specious arguments.

Nizer next discussed the damage to the windshield of the Presidential car. Again, no critic has raised that issue since the publication of the Warren Report and the Hearings and Exhibits.

Nizer's third "example" of allegedly irresponsible attacks on the Report related to rifle performance. He made completely inaccurate statements about the on-site re-enactment tests of May 1964, betraying confusion and lack of familiarity with the facts. Similarly, in referring to the identification of the rifle found in the Depository, Nizer completely misstated the facts, naming the rifle as a "carbonieri" instead of a Carcano. He said, again from the depths of appalling ignorance or carelessness, that Oswald kept that rifle at the Paine residence "in another room, in a crib covered with a blanket." Apparently Nizer believes that Oswald kept his baby on the floor of the Paine garage! He then urged the listeners to read for themselves the "20 volumes," which in fact number 26. And that was the one responsible remark he made, one which I fully endorse--for upon reading those 26 volumes,

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the public will see for itself that the Warren Report repeatedly misrepresents the testimony and documents--by distortion, omission, and plain falsification.

Before you reject that remark, may I urge you to examine the Hearings and Exhibits, or at least the published criticism of the Warren Report by responsible writers. And I hope that Nizer and other advocates of the Report will take the trouble to do so also, and in future address themselves to issues of actual fact instead of mouthing wild fulminations rooted in ignorance, fantasy, and bias--which are a great disservice to the listening public.

Yours very sincerely,

Sylvia Meagher
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