

18 November 1966

Mr. Harrison S. Salisbury
Assistant Managing Editor
The New York Times
229 West 43 Street
New York, N.Y. 10036

Dear Mr. Salisbury,

Some months ago I took the liberty of writing to you to suggest that you read Inquest by Edward Jay Epstein and perhaps reconsider your assessment of the Warren Report as reflected in your introduction to the Bantam edition and in our exchange of letters late in 1964, if I recall correctly.

Now, I have just read your review, "Who Killed President Kennedy?" in the November issue of Progressive. Permit me to express my personal gratification at the modification of your earlier views on the Report and your frank acknowledgment of the defects of the Commission's investigation; but, without wishing to carp, also my regret that your reappraisal of the Report is presented to the few reached by The Progressive rather than to the many reached and influenced by the Bantam edition and/or the New York Times. Perhaps that will soon be rectified?

I note from your review that you continue to believe that "Oswald was the killer—a lone killer," but that you concede now that a reexamination of the Commission's findings is warranted. Certainly you have come a long way in the direction of the critics. I will venture to hope that you will come the remainder of the way before too long. The critics, and I count myself among them, if that is not too immodest, have been at their work for some three years now—work which Richard Rovere has suggested was properly the responsibility of the fourth estate. They have not enjoyed the support or assistance of the press, for the most part, and often they have been obstructed, ridiculed as mythmakers and demonologists, and (until very recently) dismissed without a hearing.

The bestowal of respectability on the critics, the support (even limited or qualified support) of their criticisms, and the prospects of cessation of active hostilities or passive silence, on the part of the most prestigious American daily and one of its most illustrious editors, must be sincerely welcomed by all those who have questioned or challenged the Warren Report. Personally, I am quite delighted at the progress that has been achieved.

I congratulate you and look forward to your further pronouncements on the case as events unroll themselves.

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Meagher
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New York, N.Y. 10014

P.S. I am sorry that you were not impressed by Sauvage's book The Oswald Affair. It seemed to me the most forthright and uncompromising of the critical works, and I was certainly greatly impressed when I read the French edition in April 1965. The unfortunate and non-fortuitous delay in publication of the American edition obscures the fact that the book was a tour de force of some magnitude and that it leads rather than follows the later critical books. But perhaps it was too forthright.