

15 January 1966

Mr David Welsh
News Editor
RAMPARTS
1182 Chestnut Street
Menlo Park, California

Dear Mr Welsh,

There have been few occasions since the publication of the Warren Report on which I experienced the pleasure and encouragement aroused by your letter of January 12, 1966 and the extraordinary news that RAMPARTS intends to press for a reopening of the investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy. I have been an admirer of RAMPARTS, and a subscriber, since the outstanding issue on Mississippi Justice; in fact, I submitted material on the Warren Report in November 1964 and was disappointed at the lack of interest at that time. I am all the more happy that RAMPARTS now intends to press for a reinvestigation of the case--the objective that has motivated me for the last year and a half --and to coordinate and focus the individual efforts of scattered researchers which have thus far failed to achieve a national impact.

I have spent a good part of the last year compiling a subject index to the twenty-six volumes of Hearings and Exhibits issued by the Warren Commission, to be published in the near future by Scarecrow Press (I finished checking proof a few days ago). I interrupted another project to work on the subject index, because I became convinced that such an index was an essential tool for the study of the great mass of unorganized material in the Hearings and Exhibits, to facilitate an appreciation of the extent to which the Warren Report misrepresents, distorts, and omits the data on which it purports to base itself.

With the subject index in the hands of the publisher, I have resumed work on my original project--a comparative study of the Report, on one hand, and the Hearings and Exhibits, on the other. I have written just over 300 pages already (about 90,000 words), restricting myself almost exclusively to the official documents and testimony to demonstrate the spurious nature of the Report, in its allegations of "fact" and its reasoning. My manuscript includes also the results of my examination of the Zapruder color slides at the National Archives, and of attempts to obtain clarification of certain anomalies, but this aspect is a minor one--fundamentally, my study hoists the Report by its own petard, the Hearings and Exhibits.

I shall send you all or sections from the manuscript, and if you feel that it is suitable I shall certainly be willing to consider making any necessary modifications in presentation for publication as an article or articles of individual chapters instead of the book which was the original scheme. Actually, many or most of the chapters are written as individual essays and are independent from each other and cohesive in attacking a specific element in the evidence.

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Little by little I have become acquainted with other critics of the Warren Report, exchanging information, and in almost every case I have been awed by their monumental labor, courage, and commitment to the reversal of the ugly and shameful miscarriage of justice which has made the enormous tragedy of Dallas quite unbearable. Last October a number of us got together at my apartment for an all-day talk session which was valuable and heartening. There is an occupational risk of discouragement through the feeling of isolation and the feeling of fighting against overwhelming odds; so the prospect of a conference is on the whole a positive one, despite the reluctance most of us feel about involving ourselves in organizational preoccupations, to the detriment of direct research and writing.

I am presently in contact with the following people who are working on the case (although not all are writing) and if any of the names are new to you I shall be glad to provide the addresses: Mrs Joseph A Field; David Lifton; Sylvan Fox; Joseph Lobenthal; Lillian Castellano; Leo Sauvage; Vincent J Saladria; Shirley Martin; and Penn Jones, Jr. Thomas Stamm, who is also among this group, has written several unpublished articles which seem to me to have considerable merit, and I have taken the liberty of suggesting to him that he send them to you.

If you wish to send someone to discuss the investigation, I shall be delighted and make every effort to be available. My telephone number, for your records, is Area Code 212, Chelsea 2-4293 or at my office Plaza 4-1234 ext 2024.

Your decision to make RAMPARTS available as a forum for the investigative work being done on the assassination is extremely important and deserves the thanks and congratulations of the reading public and especially of those who have been working on the case in an atmosphere of massive indifference and, in some instances, personal risk. Please feel sure that I will cooperate in every possible way. With warm good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Meagher

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P.S. Mrs Joseph A Field of Beverly Hills has the tapes of a five-hour radio discussion of the Warren Report in which I participated in November 1965. Transcribed and edited, it might make a good article.