

7316 - 13th Avenue N.W.
Seattle, Washington 98107
26 Apr 69

Mrs. Sylvia Meagher
302 West Twelfth Street
New York, New York 10014

Dear Sylvia,

Thanks so much for yours of the 24th and for your kind words about my letter. I confess that certain subjects inspire me to leap the rigid bounds of grammar, especially subjects that leap the rigid bounds of logic. Verse has to date eluded me, I fear, but for a short ode to Perry Russo that Larry Haapanen and I did one day to the tune of "Onward, Christian Soldiers."

I'm very sorry to hear about Epstein. I had missed his "NYT Magazine" article, and did not know that he had switched sides. I predict a comforting and successful academic life for the lad.

I am delighted to hear about the Subject Index xerocopies, and shall order one immediately.

Here is a project Fred, Larry and I are working on that might interest you. We would like to provide a sort of clearinghouse for serious researchers, a network wherein those who have done and are still doing the work that needs to be done can find out about each other's existence and work. So often, people working in the same or complementary areas are unaware that work is being done elsewhere, and communications among critics proceed on an almost random basis. We have not been thinking in terms of a newsletter, but just informing critics of what other critics are doing. We are planning to circularize everybody we can think of who is researching with a simple form asking what they have done, are doing, intend to do, will not do but would like to see done by someone else, and what sort of material they are using (volumes, archives, newspapers, etc.). Everyone who replies will receive a set of all the forms turned in, with updating if and as needed. We do not plan to charge for this service. It has the virtue of being entirely voluntary, and I feel that the occasional researcher who plays things close to his chest would be more than offset by other people who do want to exchange information. God knows, the endemic lack of communication helps nobody. Your opinions and ideas on this project would be greatly appreciated.

You are right about Crisman (alias Jon Gold, alias John Gaudjo, alias half the names in the telephone book) being a louse of the first water. I had heard about the Maury Island episode -- Larry, who is in the Air Force, is, among other duties, his base's UFO officer, and found reference to it in his files. Crisman's primary extracurricular activity seems to be that of bagman for the syndicate, a task that has taken him around the country more than once. Although his Ph.D. in psychology is from a diploma mill -- one that even provided a transcript of the grades he got

Mrs. Sylvia Meagher, 2

in all the courses he never took -- he is a bright guy and has done a lot of reading on his own. He also has been kicked out of half the towns in western Washington for charity fraud, and is the object of keen interest by any number of law enforcement agencies (corrupting the police never has been his strong point). Lately he is getting into politics around here, too. I mentioned Lavender last time. He claimed to be doing most of George Wallace's political writing in the Northwest, and is the eminence grise of a Birchy little sheet called the "New Tacoma Times," which flays Edd Jeffords unmercifully. Among many other hobbies, Crisman claims to be Church Bishop in this area of the Universal Life Church. He has not made much of this since it was revealed to be the organization that will ordain anybody who asks, and will award doctorates of divinity for \$20. Edd has found some evidence tending to show that Crisman is associated with a paramilitary Rightist group in the Tacoma area. Interestingly, Crisman has a very good assassination library, and in his press conference after he got his subpoena he showed himself to be familiar with the basic facts.

I suppose you saw Loran Eugene Hall's article in the "National Enquirer" wherein he stated he, in effect, had been offered \$50,000 to participate in the assassination. Well, I don't know, but I read a report of an interview he had with one of Garrison's people, and a transcript of another, and he claimed therein that the incident was merely an offhand comment in bad taste that was not taken seriously. Opinions of Hall's credibility by those who know him are quite low.

Regarding Dick Sprague, it seems that he has a strong tendency to overelaborate. Stage-managing of the assassination approaches, for Dick, the point where almost everybody in Dallas was a mere puppet. One of the arrest photos with the tramps in it shows a Dallas cop who, Dick told me, had some sort of communications gear in his ear. Since Occam's Razor reigns supreme around this household, I used subtle and penetrating scientific analysis (I looked at it closely) and it turned out to be nothing more than the play of shadows in his ear and on the wall behind. Another wowser was his claim that the Foley photo showed wires strung between the 6th floor of the TSB and Decker's office. They turned out to be telephone lines and they weren't anywhere near either place. Then there is his analysis of Cancellare 1: can you imagine anyone dumb enough to use a sign reading "SOB Jack Kennedy" as a signal for a successful hit? maybe those five gentlemen in cowboy hats were peering through the foliage because they wanted to make sure they succeeded before they escaped.

Oh, well. I wish him all the success in the world in finding and cataloguing photographs, but I reserve the right to interpret them myself. This seems to be a growing attitude, by the way.

I'll tell Larry about your remembering colloquy regarding Oswald's

Mrs. Sylvia Meagher, 3

attending the Powers trial, and send him back to the volumes. It might be an important point, since the "Historic Diary" does not mention such an incident.

I believe I noticed something which, to my mind, marks the "Historic Diary" as a work of fiction. If it was intended to be a day-to-day record of experiences and thoughts, it would certainly be more amorphous than it is. It would contain any number of unconnected and disjointed items, a random collection of incidents. As it stands, though, it can be clearly divided into sections, each one dealing with a separate topic. Either clever Oswald invariably recognized which incidents in his life would later take on some significance, or the whole thing was written long after the fact. My guess is that it was composed, perhaps from notes or a genuine journal which no longer exists, after he returned. As an aside, calling something like that "Historic" certainly indicates an intention to have it made public. It might be useful for an objective reinvestigation to inquire into whether the type of notebook used was being manufactured in 1959.

I don't know if I mentioned this before, but I have been collecting material for a monograph on Oswald's politics. Things of this nature have been done before, but I'd like to make it as comprehensive as possible. It is so clear that he was just about as radical as J. Edgar Hoover. I'll send you a draft if and when I get one done.

Thanks again, and goodnight, Illuminati, wherever you are.

Regards,


George E. Rennar