

Howard Roffman
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Mrs. Sylvia Meagher
302 West 12 St.
New York, N.Y. 10014

Dear Mrs. Meagher:

Dick Bernabei just sent me a carbon of your letter to him dated April 16, concerning your Givens article and my ms. The letter indicates you might know something about me. In case you don't, I'm currently a freshman at the University of Pennsylvania. For the past four years I've been doing extensive research into the assassination--reading, traveling, corresponding, interviewing, etc. My two main contacts are Dick and Harold Weisberg. Last summer, I wrote the major part of a book on the assassination which I recently completed. I expect it to be copyrighted by early July. The book will be called "Presumed Guilty: Lee Harvey Oswald in the Assassination of President Kennedy," and will focus on the question of whether Oswald fired any of the shots (concluding, obviously, that he did not). The major part of the book deals with the medical evidence as, I believe, it has not been treated before. There is also much analysis of the incriminating circumstantial evidence.

One of the important considerations is the evidence indicating (in my mind, proving) that LHO was on the first floor from 11:50 to 12:30. Givens, as of my knowledge to last month, was not really crucial, but he was used by the WC to place LHO on the sixth floor which, as you pointed out in your excellent book, could not be true. Citing you, I incorporated the Givens story into my text, to the extent that Givens described an event which was physically impossible.

The new information in your ms really blew my mind, for it not only brings up the question of (more) criminal actions by the WC staff, but shows that even Givens placed LHO on the first floor and at that in an important location--the domino room. Need I tell you what weight that gives to poor Oswald's story?

It is too late to include the new info in my text. I don't think, however, Dick adequately conveyed to you my wishes re a footnote. My idea was this: I would convey the information disclosed in the CD's you sight and explain how that affects the Givens episode. Then I would say that you discovered the documents and explained them in your unpublished monograph. That way, you would get the credit you deserve and the reader would be free to check the original citations at the Archives, thus not being deprived of a means of checking sources. Of course, I will not do this without your permission.

I can't tell you how much I appreciate your offer to go over my ms. Time has been a great problem with me, and I've not

had the chance to go over my book with a fine-tooth-comb, as I would have preferred. My only major effort along those lines has been to try as much as I possibly can to document my technical discussions re the wounds. Although the book is actually a first draft (except for a few chapters), I have made several changes in wording and information where I felt I misrepresented the facts.

My current opinion is that I have built a pretty tight case, but that my presentation may be bad and my style of writing not much better. It is a hard ~~xxxx~~ judgement for me to make and I'd surely welcome the opinions and suggestions of others.

Could you tell me under what "terms" you'd go over my ms.?

My only terms would be that you keep any information in the book not already published confidential. This would especially include portions of the book in which I relate my various encounters with people who I charge as being accessories after the fact in the murder. You see, because of what I attribute to my age and presumed innocence, many who would otherwise not do so have responded to my inquiries.

I expect to be in New York on several occasions this summer. Perhaps we could make arrangements to meet at your convenience and I could furnish you with a Xerox of my book, once it has been copyrighted.

Also, is there any way I could purchase a copy of Accessories After the Fact? No bookstore in the area has it and I'd really like a copy for my library. Working with the Library's copy all these years has been less than convenient.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,


Howard Hoffman

cc Dick Bernabei