

February 1969

Mr. Gary Schoener  
Box 392 Mayo Hospital  
Minneapolis 55455

Dear Gary,

Paris Flammonde telephoned me in May last year and introduced himself. He asked me for a citation relating to some statement or other by Marina Oswald, I forget what it was, and he called me two or three times in subsequent months to ask for similar references in the 26 volumes, usually information that I had in my head. He also drew heavily on Accessories in the preparation of his manuscript, which I did not realize until much later was devoted entirely to Garrison.

Since I gave Flammonde only occasional and incidental help, in the form of supplying references or similar points of information by phone when he called from time to time, the acknowledgment seems over-generous. However, it is clear that he had no intent to misrepresent my position on Garrison, since he says explicitly (near the end of the book) that I am opposed to Garrison, quoting almost the whole passage from Accessories on this question; and a few pages later, he refers to me as a WR critic who is hostile to Garrison.

I can assure you that Flammonde's generosity towards my work has in no way influenced my opinion of his book. It is deplorably inaccurate, very poorly researched and reasoned at times, and hopelessly bereft of objectivity. My review of the book will appear before too long in The Commonweal (a weekly periodical very much like The Nation in its appearance).

Since I feel certain that there was no devious or sinister motive behind Flammonde's acknowledgement of my assistance, I have no ground for accusing him of misusing my name. I trust that this information clarifies the situation for you.

Sincerely,  
*Sylvia Meagher*  
Sylvia Meagher

P.S. I agree with you that any linking of the WR and UFOs is undesirable. I have been interested in UFOs for the last 20 years, largely in terms of official obfuscation, lies, suppression, and blundering. That is one legitimate link between the two subjects; and just the other night I stumbled into an interesting coincidence. Dr. Luis Alvarez, the Nobel laureate of 1968, was a CBS "expert" for the 1967 "News Inquiry on the WR" and claims that he "discovered" the blurs in frames of the Zapruder film which he and CBS assert as corresponding with the three shots (while overlooking the interval of less than 42 frames between their "first two shots," which vitiates the whole thesis). I now find that Alvarez was on the "Robertson Panel" of 1953, which produced a very carefully phrased report utilized by the government to debunk the critics of Air Force handling of the subject of UFOs.  
(over)

I had earlier stumbled into the fact that James Cadigan, the questioned-documents expert who was so helpful to the Warren Commission, had been a prosecution witness in the Alger Hiss case, in which his testimony was considered rather dubious according to Fred Cook.

At that time, it occurred to me that it would be a very useful and illuminating exercise to look into the background of each of the experts used by the WC, to see if there was a consistent pattern of assistance to the prosecution in cases with political rather than criminal character. I suggested this to a number of would-be researchers and helpers but no one picked it up from there.

What do you think of the possibility and value of attempting this kind of check-up?

PPS. Still another link between the WR or the assassination and UFOs is Fred Lee Crisman, recently implicated in the "plot" by Garrison. Crisman was a principal in the famous Maury Island UFO case of the late 1940's, and is considered by many students of the subject as having staged this hoax, which led indirectly to the death of two Air Force men.