

7 December 1966

Dear Margaret,

I am afraid that this is not the full reply that your letter of the 2nd deserves but only a hasty note to thank you for writing and for sending the clipping. I was most interested in what you told me about yourself and your interest in cultural anthropology, including the IGY, about which we heard much here at the UN during the "Year" itself but on which my memory unfortunately has become vague.

Anyone would be entitled to believe that WR-researchers are one-dimensional fanatical and horribly divorced from contemporary life. Most of us have lost contact with all other preoccupations and interests, for a very simple reason --the complexity and scope of the evidence is such that it literally squeezes the brain out of shape, leaving no space for any other data or interests. This must seem like a great exaggeration, and perhaps it is credible only to someone who has experienced the initiation-by-fire. I know that at least one other researcher has, like myself, literally lost every pre-11/22/63 friend. I no longer know a single soul that I met earlier than 11/22/63. Some old friends were appalled by our lack of faith in the Commission, and outraged by the thought of challenging such an august body. They wanted no part of that. Other friends were merely bored by the monomania; and if truth be told, it was impossible to listen to chit-chat about an assortment of trivia, or what became trivia, without gnashing of the teeth.

The situation is only intensified now, with one new development tripping over the other, and incessant demands for information, interviews, and assistance. I am greatly frustrated by the inroads on my time, which I must nevertheless give to some at least of this marginalia when I want to be working on the evidence. Also, this acceleration of events coincides with the busiest phase of my annual program at the UN, so that I am constantly desperate to conserve, literally, minutes. I have to ask to be forgiven, not only for this inadequate reply but, in advance, for my delinquencies or seeming delinquencies in future--I assure you that there is no incivility nor lack of warm appreciation, only a desperate and unending race against the clock.

There is a chance that I will have a day or two in Dallas in January, around the 16th or 18th, but it is only tentative at this time. I am going to Victoria, British Columbia, for a day or two, to speak on the WR; then, if possible, to Los Angeles to see some of the researchers there, and if I can still do it, to Dallas to look at the place that has generated this immense change in our history and which has become pseudo-familiar to me over the many long months of study. If I know that I am definitely coming to Dallas, I will tell you the date as soon as it is fixed, and will hope to meet you personally.

In any case, I would hope to see you in New York in the spring. I was not sure what you meant in your handwritten postscript "Presume you got the dope out of Esquire?" The Trillin piece was very witty--he is one of the people who has interviewed me, by the way, for the New Yorker Magazine, but it may never see print. Must rush off, with renewed thanks, Warmly,

Sylvia Meagher  
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