

April 11, 1972

Dear Mrs. Meagher,

I just finished reading your book, Accessories After the Fact, for the third time, and wanted to pass some of my comments and observations on to you.

At the time of the assassination, I was teaching and coaching at a parochial school in the Pocono Mountain area, and simply did not have the time or energy to do much, extra reading. This past year, I have read as many of the pro and con books and articles concerning the assassination as I could get my hands-on.

I guess I am going to have to break-down and buy a set of the Hearings and Exhibits, although my reading has disclosed, that many of the pertinent documents and exhibits were withheld from publication. I was informed by the Government Printing Office, that only 2,400 sets had been purchased, as of October, 1971. The spokesman could not break this figure down into categories: library, individual, public, private, etc.

I have a list of observations and questions a mile-long, but would be happy to receive your answers and comments on any of them. For example, I noted that without exception, the individuals who reported that they had observed someone in the sixth-floor window, from the outside, reported that the person wore light-colored clothing. This certainly did not coincide with the color of the shirt Oswald had-on at the time of his arrest. I have not been able to find the testimony of Truly and Baker re Oswald's shirt, but noted that The Report summarized Mrs. Reid's testimony on WR 155; "He was wearing a T-shirt and no jacket."

You noted that a Dallas Police Captain reported that Tippit had been shot three times. I noted the same observation in the 12/9/63 FBI Summary Report. (page 2) The same Report mentions the examination of the four empty cartridges, but nothing is said about the one revolver bullet, supposedly received on 11/23/63. The Commission should have, at least, after hearing the mixed-up story of the four bullets, subpoenaed the Tippit Autopsy Report, his clothing, and the autopsy-doctor for direct examination. Do you know whether this was done, and simply not reported, and where this material is today?

Many of the so-called tests certainly were not valid, and in many instances, where conflicts in testimony arose, (Hosty-Revill) only cross examination could have solved the problem. In another instance, Jenner could simply have asked Marina Oswald to accompany him to Ruth Paine's home, and shown him where she stood to copy Hosty's license-plate number.

I really think, that the Commission members simply allowed too much extraneous information to be gathered; I know I would have wanted to hear Bogard, among others, right in front-of-me. They surely should have directed their staff to exhaust all efforts in an attempt to find the sources of the ammunition, plus the clip. The story of the extra Secret Service agents would have raised a red-flag for me.

If you are still aiding persons interested in the assassination, I would appreciate hearing from you. I am especially interested in finding out how to obtain a copy of your index to the Hearings and Exhibits. Dr. Wecht informed me, just a month ago, that Burke Marshall has still not answered his latest request to examine the Autopsy photos and X-rays.

Sincerely yours, Edward R. Slemmer 136 South Fulton St.
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