

Mr. Thomas Stamm
2705 Bainbridge Avenue
Bronx, New York

June 14, 1965

Mr. Richard Gilpin
Liberation
5 Beekman St.
New York 38, New York

Dear Mr. Gilpin:

Your letter, eagerly, if patiently, awaited was at once disappointing and exhilarating. I had hoped to move your editorial board to publish additional material on the mystery of Kennedy's assassination. I did not succeed.

Others, it seems, are identically motivated. Salandria brought to light "some new photographic material;" you are going to make an attempt to view the Nix films; you have on hand "an article relating to the Shooting of Tippit," which you find "very convincing and suggestive," but have not yet decided to publish because "all it really accomplishes is to raise another new set of questions... without providing any conclusive answers."

I urge you strongly to publish. I understand and sympathize with your feeling that "this process" of asking questions "can go on forever" and that "it is not clear that any conclusive answers are ever going to be forthcoming." No, it is not clear now. But it is not settled that answers will never be forthcoming. The chances of obtaining answers which is to say, establishing the truth, will be increased by raising valid doubts and stirring controversy.

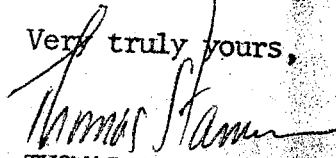
The problem for Liberation, if I may say so, is not whether answers will be forthcoming, like the Messiah, from some undefinable source in the indefinite future. Liberation is convinced, I take it, that the Commission's theory and account of the assassination is spurious. Liberation's problem, therefore, is what role, if any, it wishes to play in the effort to bring the truth to light. If it decides not to undertake any initiative in this regard, it can judge the material submitted to it on the basis of topical interest at the time of publication and allot space to it accordingly. If Liberation, however, sees the matter in terms of its underlying political significance as a sinister event in the evolution of an ultra right force in the United States, it will probably decide the issue is too important to ignore.

To be sure, there is a middle ground. It is possible to withhold opinion on the underlying issues and yet decide that whatever the truth, all must be done that can be done to facilitate or compel its discovery.

Should Liberation make the decision to publish a stream of material critical of the Warren Report and its significance, it could serve useful and necessary purposes. It might become the focal outlet for the researches of scattered individuals who are largely unaware of one another's existence. It would give their endeavors co-ordinated point. It would increase the force of their criticism.

But should Liberation decide, for whatever reason, not to publish a continuing stream of material on the assassination and Report, it might take the material it now has in hand, add whatever may be forthcoming, and devote a single issue to the subject. Would it not be appropriate to make the November issue a commemorative one?

Very truly yours,



THOMAS STAMM

P. S. If you decide not to publish the piece on Tippit, how can intensely interested persons like myself become acquainted with its contents? Would you, in that event, ask the author for permission to let me read his piece? Or would you give me the author's name and address; I will ask him directly for his or her permission?

TS