

Nov. 9, 1974

John Moulder
The National Tattler
2717 North Pulaski Road
Chicago, Ill. 60639

Dear Mr. Moulder,

Many thanks to your prompt reply to my letter.

I am appreciative that the "press of time and various other projects prevent" you from making "detailed and specific answer" to the questions I asked about some statements in your September Tattler article about Gerald Ford, Leon Jaworski, and the Warren Commission. Nevertheless I think it advisable, in the interest of accuracy and truth, to pursue the matter further; and I hope you will find or make the time to do so with me. Perhaps you can regard our discussion as part of the investigation which the Tattler stated it has been conducting for the last ten years. I hope you will keep me posted on the progress of your research into the role of Rear Admiral Burkley in the aftermath of the assassination of President Kennedy, about which you say I have whetted your appetite - I beg your pardon; you said "interest."

After reading your letter I tried to check your statement: "The makeup of the staff (Ford's personal staff) can be found in the 27 volumes of the commission's Report." You meant of course the report (one volume) and the 26 volumes of the transcripts of the commission hearings and the exhibits which it compiled. As you noted, the commission's indexing was poor. Some would say it was purposely so to frustrate serious study of the commission's deceitful manipulation of the evidence to make it conform to the predetermined findings which political necessity imposed on the government to calm the agitated country after the head of state was murdered in broad daylight in the midst of his elaborate security arrangements and personnel. I was not surprised, therefore, to find that Gerald Ford was not included in the index at the back of the Report; nor in the index in the middle of Volume XV of the hearings and exhibits.

I did find a number of references to commissioner Ford in the supplementary name index to the ~~SHR~~ Subject Index to the Warren Report by Sylvia Meagher (Scarecrow Press 1966) which she compiled as a necessary prerequisite for her detailed and meticulously accurate examination of the evidence adduced in the hearings and exhibits and misinterpreted by the commission, published as Accessories After the Fact (Bobbs Merrill 1967). There is no reference in either of these works to a private Ford commission staff and nothing in them which supports the idea Ford dominated the commission.

Edward Jay Epstein's documented study of the genesis of the commission and its manipulation of the evidence also is barren of anything suggesting Ford had a private commission staff and dominated the commission (Inquest, Viking Press 1966). The lack of such indication on Epstein's part is significant in view of the fact that he based his work in good part on interviews with the commissioners and staff, and interviewed Gerald Ford in Washington

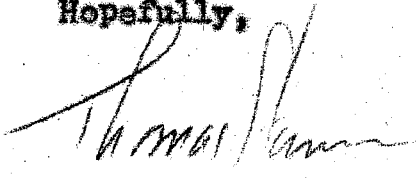
D.C. on May 5, 1965.

No other work I have read bears out your ideas of a private Ford commission staff and a dominant commissioner Ford. So I must ask you again - on what are those statements based? What is the source? How can one investigate the matter?

Is it possible that the dramatic elevation of ex-commissioner Ford first to the vice presidency and then to the presidency has led you to invest him retrospectively with an importance and role which seem to belie his personality and history? Even so there is the puzzling matter of his private commission staff. I should be grateful to you if you can clear that up definitively.

Your information about Dr. Trowbridge Ford is welcome. I will write to him and explain I learned of his interest and research from you. Can you send me his address?

Hopefully,



Thomas Stamm
2705 Bainbridge Ave
Ex NY 10458