

May 17, 1975

Dear Lifton,

Thanks for your prompt response to my letter of the tenth. Such speed and courtesy is unusual in my experience. I thank you.

Your explanation of the mispagination in the Sighttext edition of the Warren Commission executive-session transcript of December 5, 1963 is confusing but convincing, and would persuade judge and jury of your innocence of other wrongdoing whether intended, accidental, or imputed. Also, with truth restored there is no need to put you to the trouble and me to the expense of making another duplicate of the microfilm sent you by the National Archives in 1968.

Between us we have produced a comedietta of errors. The curtain raiser was your decision to impose a running pagination on the eight grouped transcripts, each of which bore its own original pagination, in Arabic numerals. This set the stage for confusion later in the piece.

Then you followed by confusing page 18 in the transcript of December 16, 1963 with page 18 in the transcript of December 5, duplicating the former and substituting it for the latter when you assembled the volume of transcripts.

You discovered the error in time to issue an errata sheet which arrived before the transcripts. Alas, however, as confusion begets error, so the latter sires the former. In noting your mistake and attempting to restore the continuity of the transcript of December 5 you referred only to page numbers, omitting correlation of page numbers with dates. And now, almost seven years later, I compound the confusion by mistaking your page 65, which falls in the transcript of December 16, with Archives page 65 in the transcript of December 5, 1963, and which, moreover, is still withheld from research as they say in bureaucratese in Washington. I am sorry.

But some good may come of all this. If you ever encounter a similar problem of superimposed pagination again you might give consideration to avoidance of confusion by the use of Mayan or Aztec glyphs, Cyrillic script, Latin numeration, Chinese ideographs, or other method of enumeration of which there is great variety in world culture. If, on the other hand, you are committed to the use of Arabic numerals, you might still try to avoid confusion by preceding the page number with a letter - L for instance; but not S.

I realize now I must wait on the National Archives for pages 43-66 of the December 5 transcript. To fill in the time until declassification takes place, and revelation gives us further opportunity to confuse page and date, let us exchange news and views. From various sources comes word you have been engaged in writing a book about the assassination of President Kennedy. Is it true? In the research you have made in the past eleven and a half years have you come across Admiral Dr. George Burkley, erstwhile presidential physician? Have you any idea of his role in the assassination? Anything you can tell me on that score will be much appreciated.

Centrately,

