

17 June 1965

Dear Representative Ford,

I am presently reading your book, Portrait of the Assassin, with the greatest interest and attention. Your first chapter is especially fascinating, since it gives the reader a look behind the scenes at the process of discussion and reasoning in which the Warren Commission engaged in confronting difficult and delicate problems.

Chairman Warren's statement on page 22, concerning the reporter Hudkins and the possibility that he might claim privilege, interested me very much. I find myself in complete agreement with the ultimate decision of the whole Commission that "the only way to proceed was to conduct extensive and thorough hearings of as many witnesses as was necessary...Where doubts were cast on any United States agency, independent experts would be hired ...to avoid reliance on a questioned authority..." etc.

With respect to the particular problem discussed in your first chapter—the rumor that Oswald was an FBI informant—I was anxious to pursue the Commission's interrogation of the reporter Hudkins, to see if he did indeed claim privilege and refuse to reveal the sources of his newspaper story, as well as the questioning of Waggoner Carr, William Alexander, Harold Feldman, and the other involved. However, the other references to Hudkins listed in your index merely mention again his role as a source of the Oswald/FBI rumors. As I am very interested in studying this matter in depth and have access to the Hearings and Exhibits, I should be very grateful if you would provide me with the appropriate references so that I can locate Hudkins' testimony as well as the others mentioned.

I should be most grateful if you will be good enough to provide me with those references as soon as possible. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely yours,

Sylvia Meagher