

17 April 1970

Mr. Gregory Olds, Editor  
The Texas Observer  
504 West 24 Street  
Austin 78705

Dear Mr. Olds,

Your letter of 16 March 1970 enclosing four back issues of the Texas Observer (not a newspaper, as I had thought, but a journal, I now realize) arrived only today, exactly one month after the date of postmark. The check of 8 April which you were kind enough to send me also arrived today. Please accept my sincere thanks for all of these items. I will read the past issues of TBO with greatest interest, but I wanted to write first and reply to the questions in your 16th March letter. (When I phoned you earlier this week, I had not yet received any of your mail, as you perhaps understood.)

I am very happy that you were able to publish my review and look forward to seeing it on your pages, after about a year of having written little and published less. I am also very pleased by your suggestion that I should send you pieces regularly, which perhaps will serve as an encouragement to resume more active writing. I will gladly send anything that seems to merit an audience or, as you say, at least a place in the historical record. Perhaps there will be material for an article or two in the 2,000-odd pages of unpublished Commission documents which I am now in course of reading.

Dr. Nichols has been in touch with me from time to time and on one occasion visited me in New York and briefed me, with slides and other visual aids, on the extensive work he has done on the JFK autopsy and ballistics evidence. I have the impression that he is doing serious work and that he is certainly deeply committed to the determination of the real facts in this case. About the Zapruder film: I suppose there is no single more powerful tool for producing instant-critics of the Warren Report than this jolting scene. Unfortunately I do not know people at CBS or NBC. I did know one CBS man but he was so unhappy about its four-hour "news inquiry" on the WR and other CBS policies that he quit about two years ago.

I think that I was not clear about Philippe Labro. We have been good friends and corresponded with each other until about a year ago, when new developments trickled out into nothing. I had told him about the Dallas police boarding the bus just after Oswald got off, when he was en route to Dallas in 1966 or 1967, hoping that he could locate the witness in question, Milton Jones (see Accessories After the Fact, pages 76-82, when you have the book) and question him. Philippe did locate Jones, who corroborated the reiterated his story of the police search of the bus. Philippe did not, so far as I know, write this up for France-Soir, but checked the story out at my request because of its potential importance. I knew that Philippe had published a novel, at just about the same time that Accessories came out, which had a great success and was mentioned for a French prize. Perhaps This Is Only a Beginning is the English edition of that novel, which I did not attempt to read in the original language since my French is not serviceable for works of fiction, only for factual subjects with which I am familiar already.

About Fensterwald: I have never met him but we did speak on the phone once or twice and he has written to me occasionally. I have heard very good things about him from some people, and less good things from some others. I have no reason to suspect his motivation, but I do question his judgment, in terms of his alliance with some of the individuals who are "founding directors" of his "CIA". Especially that con-artist Garrison. I twice declined Fensterwald's invitation to join his committee because it is so rich with frivolous, irresponsible, and untrustworthy characters. I question his judgment also when he makes the grandiose claim that he could crack the case in one day's hearing. I doubt that. When I received his mailing, I was startled to learn for the first time that he had tried to get Warren to read Accessories. It is a compliment, of course, but I hope that it does not create the impression that I am connected with Fensterwald or his CIA.

I can well understand your mixed feelings about investing effort and time in this frustrating cause which seems to make great leaps forward which only leave us where we were. But the government that pretends to serve us has perpetrated an enormous perversion of justice and has insulted our intelligence too gratuitously to be allowed to profit, by default. The country has been sliding into an abyss faster and faster since that crucifying day in Dallas, and I think we cannot recover unless and until there is a confrontation with that day's reality. Any one of us may be a next Oswald, suitable for framing, and a few may be a next JFK, eligible for liquidation on some other deadly plaza. In the last analysis, we have no choice but to keep forcing the facts onto the record.

With warm regards and thanks,

Sincerely yours,

Sylvia Meagher

18 April 1970

P.S. I have now read the four back issues of the Observer, which made me realize, belatedly, the high quality of Ronnie Dugger's work on this case. I especially agree with the concluding sentences of his review, "The Case Is Not Closed," in the 11/11/66 issue. I am truly sorry that it has taken so many years to establish contact with the Observer and with you, but I am glad that we are finally in touch.