

2 March 1972

Dear Cyril,

Do not be amazed. I did not write that interminable, doctrinaire letter to Vincent Salandria. I merely typed it for Tom Stamm, who is not much of a typist. Personally I would not waste my time on attempts to reason with Salandria, whose co-conspiratorial role in the so-called Garrison "investigation" was intellectually pitiful and morally shameful, and whose sudden disdain for the physical/forensic evidence in the Dallas assassination is deranged and an affront to common sense.

I did not hear you say anything untoward about the rifle and I am sure you did not intend to imply that the stock was "split".

Ned Crosby called and gave me an account of his meeting with Burke Marshall. I became quite cross with Crosby, who tends to give ground at the flick of an eyelash, especially when he suggested that we critics should propose a panel which would include Meritz as well as you yourself, and when he expressed fear that Marshall might okay all requests from all pathologists who apply to see the photos and X-rays. We have no reason to retreat one inch on your request and even less reason to join in any attempt to exclude qualified persons who make the same request--much less have we reason to ask that Meritz, who has already compromised himself by signing the Fisher panel report, should now get a second opportunity to exercise deception and fraud.

With "allies" like Crosby, Weisberg, and Salandria, among others, we really have no need for enemies, as Weisberg is so fond of saying. I am beginning to think that discretion and forbearance will have no effect whatever on Burke Marshall and that you should perhaps send that small piece to Harrison Salisbury, who will almost certainly reject it anyhow and give us a further evidence of the role of "Ministry of Propaganda" which the New York Times has assumed.

All the best, as ever,