

1 February 1968

Dr. Cyril H. Wecht
1417 Frick Building
Pittsburgh 15219

Dear Cyril,

Upon receiving the copy of your letter to Trent Gough dated 1/29/68 and the postscript to me, I tried to phone you last night. As you were not in, I am not sure whether or not Tink Thompson has already contacted you on this subject, as he intended to do.

Thompson and I both feel that you should not take part in the discussion on 2/12/68 to which Gough has invited you. It would be an unjustified imposition on your time and energies. Thompson and two other critics participated in a panel arranged by Gough on Monday night this week. I was in the audience and felt that it was a dreary and futile evening. Perhaps 40 or 50 people were present, composed almost exclusively of relatives and friends of the panelists and some hard-core "buffs" who attend any and all discussions of the assassination, and whom one is tempted (perhaps unfairly) to characterize as "kooks."

There was no newspaper, radio or TV coverage---just a kind of gathering of "insiders" and some admirers of the arch-phony Garrison.

Gough has been after me to be a panelist or moderator in these discussion programs and I have steadfastly refused. I feel it a waste and misuse of time. This is not to disparage Gough personally--he is a pleasant, earnest, and well-motivated person, though not perhaps very dynamic or prepossessing. In his desire to contribute to or spearhead an effort to reopen the investigation, he has inevitably become caught up in fund-raising, promotion, and the building up of a bureaucracy. At the rate he is going, it will take many decades to attract sufficient support and funds, and your great-grandchildren will be solicited to sign the petition or attend the panel discussions.

I might add that I question Gough's ability (though not his sincere intention) to reimburse you for travel to New York and hotel costs.

In short, I strongly advise you against accepting this appearance, as I believe Tink Thompson intended to do or has perhaps done. I am reluctant to lose the opportunity of seeing you that evening; but it would not be honest or fair to withhold my frank opinion. I am "sympathetic" to Gough (and would not wish him to know that I discouraged your cooperation, if you can avoid spelling it out), but as I have told him more than once I think his ideas are somewhat grandiose and his optimism somewhat exaggerated.

With warm personal regards,

As always,

Sylvia Meagher
302 West 12 Street
New York City 10014

cc: Tink Thompson