

IN MEMORIAM:

TO JOHN F. KENNEDY,
ASSASSINATED NOV. 22ND, 1963

TO LEE HARVEY OSWALD,
ASSASSINATED NOV. 24TH, 1963

TO JACK RUBY-AND THE 18
WITNESSES NOW DEAD, WHOSE
TESTIMONY WILL NEVER BE
HEARD IN A COURT OF LAW.

1967 CITIZENS' COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY
G.P.O. BOX 2691, N.Y. N.Y., 10001.

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To Our Concerned Friends:

This is the first newsletter from the 1967 CITIZENS COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY. To those of you who have subscribed to this newsletter, we send our thanks, as you make it possible for us to advertise, to do mailings, to collect signatures - in effect, to continue, to grow. And to those of you who have not yet subscribed, we hope and trust you will fill out the enclosed coupon, so that we may continue to mail to you, and to expand our activities. Funds are urgently needed.

"The Trial of Lee Harvey Oswald" opened Nov. 5th at the ANTA theatre, received only fair reviews at best, and closed Nov. 11th. Clive Barnes, drama critic of the New York Times, was confused because "the evidence is conflicting" in the play. Where has Mr. Barnes been for the last four years? He also referred to the play as "a perversion of democratic processes". That sounds to us like the Warren Report.

During the preview week, with small houses at the theatre, we collected 1,000 signatures, which makes for a good opening for us. From those who refuse to sign, typical comments (when they speak at all), are; "I never sign anything, it's a bad thing to sign things."; "What good will it do - you can't bring him back to life." (Is 'him' Kennedy or Oswald?); or, "Oh no! I couldn't stand another investigation.". It seems McCarthyism is still with us, at least in the minds of some people.

From those who sign, we usually hear; "Thanks for the good work - keep it up"; and "Don't you think Jim Garrison will take care of it?". To those of you with faith in Jim Garrison's case, we would say this: The trial of Clay Shaw has been scheduled for the first court calendar week in February. We would be in serious error if we expect that trial to answer all our questions. It will answer questions about Garrison's case, but is not likely to be the final judgement. No one aside from the Government has access to all the evidence at this point, and only a new investigation of the kind we are petitioning for, can seriously answer all the questions of the American public.

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SPECIAL NOTICE

Sylvia Meagher, author of "Accessories After the Fact: The Warren Commission, The Authorities & The Report", will attend an autograph-signing party for her new book, on Friday, November 24th, from 7.00pm to 9.00pm, at Bruce Mason's Bookmarket, 147 West 57th St., N.Y.C. The store phone is 247-1991.

Several other books on the assassination are coming out, and this bookstore is giving autograph parties for several authors. This is to be the first of these parties - we'll let you know of the others as soon as we have details.

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Mrs. Meagher's book is being published by the Bobbs-Merrill company, at \$8.50, and has an introduction by Leo Sauvage. It is a beautifully constructed book, thought out the way the Warren Report should have been. With the kind permission of the publishers, we reprint on the next page, the following quotes from the book. First, from the forward:

over

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It has been said that the American people are the only jury that Lee Harvey Oswald will ever have. It is our responsibility, then, to examine with utmost care and objectivity the evidence for and against him, and to reach an independent verdict. That responsibility cannot be delegated to others, however exalted their reputations and their honors. The first step must be the patient reading of the Hearings and Exhibits, imposing as the task is. If that reading demonstrates that the Report is an inaccurate, incomplete, or partisan synthesis of the raw material on which it supposedly relies, the authors - the Warren Commission - must account for the discrepancies in a manner that satisfies all doubt about their competence and their motives. If they cannot, or will not, provide such satisfaction, the people are entitled to a new investigation and a new report, by a competent and disinterested body submitting to the adversary procedure and permitting Oswald the maximum defense which can be given an accused man posthumously - an act of justice thus far denied him.

A new investigation utilizing the adversary procedure may theoretically also find that Oswald was the lone assassin. If such a finding is supported by unambiguous evidence which cannot be successfully challenged by the defense and if it is based on procedural decorum and equity, it will be acceptable. If there is a different finding, implicating co-assassins or absolving Oswald entirely, that too must meet the strictest tests of evidence and procedure.

And from the Epilogue:

The new investigative body should first attack the evidence against Oswald presented in the Warren Report and the Hearings and Exhibits, and present an objective and scientific evaluation of that evidence so that the ambiguity about his role in the assassination will, if possible, be dispelled. The new body must also be given access to the suppressed documents of the Warren Commission. The 75-year time vault must be opened and its contents must be put before the new body - and, at the appropriate moment, before the public, within our lifetime. The leads and clues which were not followed up by the Warren Commission, or which were incompletely investigated, now must be pursued with vigor, by independent investigators and not by the governmental agencies compromised by their role in the protection of the murdered President.

To read between these sections, we suggest you attend the autograph party, and buy a copy of the book, either for your existing collection, or as a first exploration in depth of the assassination and its aftermath.

The next two books are; "Oswald in New Orleans: Case For Conspiracy With the CIA", by Harold Weisberg, author of the Whitewash series; and "Six Seconds in Dallas", by Josiah Thompson, a Life magazine investigator of the assassination. Our next newsletter will contain more information on these books, and related activities.

Mort Sahl will be doing a theatre show in New York soon, assisted by three people, and probably with mention of the assassination, as he has done a great deal to stimulate talk in this area. The show opens on Tuesday, Nov. 21, at the East 74th Street Theatre, on a Tuesday to Sunday schedule. Until then, he has appeared in the evening on WNBC radio, where he answers phone queries. We intend to petition at the theatre - we hope to see you there.

And thus ends our first newsletter. Please write 'letters to the editor', with questions, statements, suggestions, etc. And let us have your subscriptions, as we are very much dependent on funds to reach the maximum number of people, and for exciting activities planned for the months ahead. Also, if you can, volunteer for work in your community, by writing a note on the back of the coupon - we'll send you a card for more details. We need you.

KENNEDY ASSASSINATION INQUIRY COMMITTEE

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To Our Concerned Friends:

Newsletter Number Two

Please note that the Committee, formerly known as the 1967 Citizens' Committee of Inquiry, will from now on be known as the KENNEDY ASSASSINATION INQUIRY COMMITTEE. Our new name is more explicit, and self-contained. All checks and mail should be addressed to the new name - our address stays the same.

Our name on our literature is not yet up-to-date, as in the case of the poster included with this newsletter. The poster appeared as an ad in the Village Voice on Nov. 22nd, and has been pasted up around New York City. We are enjoying a good response from it, and we intend to distribute it in other cities as well.

The purpose of this newsletter is twofold; to seek information, as well as to offer it. This month, we have a few things to ask of you. In general, of course, we are open to your suggestions, thoughts, and comments, and of course you are welcome to write a "letter to the editor". In specific, we are looking for workers in cities other than New York (naturally we still need New Yorkers!), people willing to organize local committees.

We are operating now as a national committee office, and we need local organizers and workers across the country. We want people to either work with us by forming a branch committee, or to work independently towards the same objective, as an associate committee. For those interested in either approach, please write us and we will begin a dialogue.

With most of these newsletters you will find a work card, for those of you who have not yet filled one out. Please do so, and if you already have, please pass it on to a friend. We can only accomplish our objective by putting aside our wishful thinking and all working together.

And now, to the offered information. In our last newsletter, we told you about "Accessories After the Fact: The Warren Commission, The Authorities & The Report", a new book by Sylvia Meagher. It's an excellent book, whether or not you have done previous reading on the assassination. It is published by Bobbs-Merrill at \$8.50, and it's 477 pages make it a marvellous Christmas gift for yourself, or a sceptical friend. Thanks to the Bookmarket, which recently gave an autograph party for Mrs. Meagher, we have copies available through the mail, some autographed, on a first-come, first-served basis. At the bottom of this newsletter you will find an order-coupon, on the opposite of which is a coupon for those of you who are not yet subscribers to this newsletter, or who would like to send a membership to a friend. Just fill out either/or both sides of this coupon and send it in promptly for your Christmas shopping!

From our last newsletter you will remember we planned to petition the audience at the Mort Sahl show, scheduled for Off-Broadway. According to the newspapers, Mr. Sahl disappeared at the last moment, later turning up in California. Better luck to all of us next time!

INCIDENTAL NEWS: Two teenagers from Bartlesville, Okla., visiting Fort Worth on the anniversary of the assassination, stole the granite headstone from the grave of Lee Harvey Oswald, and took it home with them. After negotiations with the police, the boys returned it. Perhaps they had heard of all the mismanaged and destroyed evidence in the case, and this was as close as they could get to doing their share? Or perhaps this is their way of saying Lee Harvey Oswald is alive and well in Argentina.

over

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NOT-SO INCIDENTAL NEWS: Another assassination witness was nearly added to the death roll recently. Roger D. Craig, a former Deputy Sheriff for Dallas County, was shot at on November 1st, just one week after talking to Jim Garrison in New Orleans. Fortunately for all of us, including Roger Craig, the shot only grazed his head, and he is all right. His testimony had conflicted with the findings of the Warren Commission.

For the fourth anniversary of the assassination, two major magazines did cover stories on it. Life magazine, in their issue dated Nov. 24th, had an article by Governor Connally entitled "Why Kennedy Went to Texas", plus a new series of photos of the assassination, taken by nine bystanders. And, the Saturday Evening Post, in their issue dated Dec. 2, ran an article called "The Cross Fire That Killed President Kennedy", based on a book by Josiah Thompson. The Post also editorialized that "there is no excuse for closing this case short of solution", and added that "we do not have a solution". It is interesting to note that both these magazines were firmly part of the Warren Commission Establishment at the time of the assassination, and both are now headed the opposite direction, as the wind blows the other way. And of course there is never a word of apology to the public for their earlier misdirection, nor even an acknowledgment that they once felt otherwise.

Which brings us back to our November newsletter, in which we mentioned the above book by Josiah Thompson, called "Six Seconds in Dallas". It is published by Bernard Geis Associates, and sells for \$3.95. The other issue of the month was "Oswald in New Orleans", by Harold Weisberg, a Canyon paperback selling for .95c. Two completely different books, covering completely different areas of the assassination, and both required reading for anyone looking at these two areas. Each is well worth the money, and we'll print an excerpt or two from them next issue, if we have the room. We will also print an order form for anyone who would care to order them from us; although we hope to have news of autograph parties for these gentlemen in our next issue.

1968 ACTIVITIES: During 1968, we will be sponsoring a series of round-table debates on the assassination, to be held here in New York City. This series will present a panel of critics of the Warren Report, who have reasonable disagreements, and different areas of the assassination will be discussed each week. Each evening will be devoted to one small area of the crime, so that it may be gone into in detail, and with sufficient time for questions from the audience. The first evening will be held in mid or late January, and will be announced first in this newsletter. Priority on tickets will go to our members, as our seating capacity will probably be limited.

We are also planning a series of group discussions for our members, where we can meet intimately to discuss areas of the assassination, hopefully with an expert on the area for discussion and moderating.

QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH: Very soon we will make a button available to you and your friends, which will express the question in our minds, or make a statement on how we feel. We welcome your suggestions. / Is there a landlord in the audience? We are looking for office space in Manhattan, and would greatly appreciate the assistance of anyone in real estate who might aid us. / We also need legal advice etc., and other business help. / Finally, does any group need a speaker? We are not yet prepared for this, but very shortly we will have a speakers bureau, and so we await your requests.

A final reminder for those who ask, as well as for those who think but say nothing. The KENNEDY ASSASSINATION INQUIRY COMMITTEE is not a political party, nor does it have a political color, but rather is the people of this country fighting together to maintain a democracy. We have a Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer, plus about twenty volunteers in New York, and we need more. We need your energy and funds - please join us. - Trent Gough, Chairman.

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