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LAUREN FIELD
EDITORIAL OFFICES

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Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Please excuse our delay in answering your letter. It was unfortunately mislaid and has only now come to my attention.

We noted with interest your reaction to TIME's December 2 law report, "Blasting Facts Free." This story was intended to take an overall look at how the Freedom of Information Act has worked to date, and so to indicate the reasons why Congress deemed it necessary to amend the Act. We did not therefore go too deeply into any particular example of the defects of the law, but rather briefly cited a number of examples to show the kinds of loopholes officials were slipping through in order to avoid releasing information. Thus, what seemed to us most important about your case was not the reasons why you have criticized the Warren Commission report, but the fact that the exception written into the 1966 Act for law-enforcement investigatory records was used to deny you access to the spectrographic analyses of the bullet fragments.

As for our brief reference to Weisberg v. Department of Justice: we certainly didn't mean to suggest that you believed in the "single bullet" theory. We noted that you were a critic of the Warren Commission, and we put quotation marks around "single bullet" when we said that you had "asked to see tests of the 'single bullet'" in order to indicate your belief that there was no such thing.

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,


Lauren Field

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