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SIR: You persist in defending the Warren Commission report by staking the personal integrity of the members of the commission on it. This is neither logical nor right. The report can be defended only by fact: Is it right? Your position flies into the face of the entire concept of United States law. We do not expect infallibility in public servants, but we do expect and provide for the rectification of error.

Never before has proclaimed ignorance been accepted as authority, but the papers recently have been full of statements from various officials all, in one form or another, saying, "I do not know what I am talking about, but . . ." And then, it seems, they say the books they haven't read are wrong. I have yet to have an error in "Whitewash: The Report on the Warren Report," called to my attention, and I have seen to it that most of the people most concerned had copies, that most of the correspondents, reviewers and editors had the first copies.

It is not true that for the report to be wrong there had to be a monster conspiracy involving everyone from the chief justice down to the most junior charwoman in the Department of Justice. To persist in this false and illogical conclusion may well destroy the integrity of the members of the commission, who can be wrong without being corrupt.

Neither in "Whitewash" nor in its coming sequel, "Whitewash II," do I assault the integrity of the members of the commission.

Harold Welsberg.