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Bill Richter

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February 16, 1977

Ms. Vivian Cadden
Senior Editor
McCall's
230 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10017

Dear Ms. Cadden:

As I recall, I told you when you visited me in my office that I would write you or talk to you again.

I have thought about the matter we discussed, that is the proposed investigations, and I think that I shall rest my statements with my letter to you of December 10, 1976, and my talk with you in which I confirmed the statements I made in the letter of December 10.

I appreciate very much your writing me and calling on me and I shall be glad to hear from you at any time.

Yours sincerely,

John Sherman Cooper

hb

(202) 452-6498

December 10, 1976

Ms. Vivian Cadden
Senior Editor
McCall's
230 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10017

Dear Ms. Cadden:

I regret that I have not responded earlier to your letter. I returned to the United States in October from the German Democratic Republic where I had been serving as Ambassador for the last two years, and my mail has been following me for several weeks.

I have read your letter very carefully and I believe I understand the purpose of the article which you are preparing. Nevertheless, as I was out of the United States for almost two years and, although I kept informed about the developments regarding the report of the Warren Commission, I have not read the new reports of the Congressional Committees. I will secure the reports of the Committees as I want to study them before making any comments.

I have always taken the position that, while believing no proof of a conspiracy was found, nevertheless, I have had no objection to further investigations and if additional facts and truth were to be found, it would be correct and in

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the public interest. At this point I simply do not want to make comments on statements which I have not studied in the new reports and which may be assumptions. I am sure that you will understand my position. At any rate, I will write you again during the month. I will be glad to hear from you at any time.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

John Sherman Cooper



December 3, 1976

John Sherman Cooper
503 N. Main Street
Somerset KY 42501

Dear Mr. Cooper,

I am working on an article for McCall's concerning the new doubts about the Warren Commission report -doubts that have arisen as a result of the revelations of the Church and Pike committees and that have prompted both the Senate and the House to undertake investigations of the assassination of President Kennedy.

I am not trying to uncover new facts or to "solve" anything. What I want to do is to get the opinions of some of those who were caught up in the tragedy of Dallas and its aftermath, about the findings of the Church and Pike committees as they may relate to the assassination and the Warren report. I need not say how much McCall's would value your opinions on this matter and how crucial we feel they are to the article.

Boiling down a host of questions that come to mind, may I pose four:

1. Do you think that Allen Dulles should have revealed to the Commissioners the CIA's involvement in plans to assassinate Castro and its contracting with Mafia figures to further those plans?

2. Representative Downing and others are much concerned about the minutes of a Commission meeting about Oswald's possible F.B.I. connections. Mr. Dulles points out that if J. Edgar Hoover is asked about it he would -and should, in Mr. Dulles' opinion- most certainly lie to the Commissioners if there were any such connection. Rep. Downing feels that this illustrates a central weakness in the Warren Commission procedure: reliance on various agencies to provide the answers about themselves. Would you comment on this, please?

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3. The report of the Church Committee notes that three days after the assassination the following memo was dispatched by Nicholas Katzenbach to Bill Moyers (read Robert Kennedy to President Johnson):

"It is important that all of the facts surrounding President Kennedy's assassination be made public in a way which will satisfy people in the United States and abroad that all the facts have been told and that a statement to this effect be made now.

"1. The public must be satisfied that Oswald was the assassin; that he did not have confederates who are still at large; and that the evidence was such that he would have been convicted at trial.

"2. Speculation about Oswald's motivation ought to be cut off and we should have some basis for rebutting thought that this was a Communist conspiracy or (as the Iron Curtain press is saying) a right wing conspiracy to blame it on the Communists."

What are we to make of this memo? One must assume that Robert Kennedy, more than anyone, would have wished to get to the bottom of that terrible event. Yet he seemed to want no investigation. Could you comment on this, please?

4. You will have caught the drift of my questions. I know that you were firmly convinced that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, killed President Kennedy. Thus far the critics of the Warren report have not come up with another assassin. Would it be a fair summation to say, however, that while the conclusions of the Warren Commission may still be correct, they were reached not because the Commissioners were given all the relevant information but rather despite the withholding of important information from the Commissioners? And that it was this coverup -or rather these coverups -by various agencies, for perhaps various reasons, that fed and continue to feed conspiracy theories?

We are planning this article for the March issue and we would be most grateful for an early reply.

Respectfully yours,



Vivian Cadden
Senior Editor

VC/lt