

March 25, 1974

Dear Bud:

I am very sorry that I will be unable to attend the meeting on April 9th. I am very "involved" in the Governor's campaign for re-election and am serving as Manager of the Dallas County Campaign. Should the occasion arise that you need to speak with me during the campaign, my phone number at the office is 214 744-5564.

Bud, I am very distressed at the talk of disbanding the Committee. It is my firm belief that the existence of the Committee at this particular time is crucial to the efforts of all the critics of the Warren Report, not just those of us who "banded together" under your leadership several years ago.

Naturally, rumors of various problems have reached me during the past months. However, none of the rumors comes near adequately explaining the reason for breaking up the Committee. I have been completely amazed and have had nothing but admiration for you as you have withstood onslaught after onslaught during the past few years. We all have a "breaking point" but I hope you don't reach yours due to the efforts of someone as irresponsible as Sherman Skolnick.

It would be very difficult, if not impossible, to convince me that you have ever had anything but the very best motives in putting into the Committee all the money, time and hard work you have expended. If you were ever very close to the CIA, you certainly jeopardized that position when you "tricked" Larry Houston into the written "admission" you obtained several years ago. I realize that was very minor, but, from the little I know of the way the CIA operates, any cohort of theirs would prefer a long prison sentence to compromising them in any way....

My "input" into the Committee has been almost nil in the past seven months, but it is such a comfort to know that you are there as a "sounding board" in emergencies. Bud, I think we need you, as never before, your intelligence, your leadership ability and your personality. I am sure Patty is saying, "Do what you want to do," but she is secretly praying that you drop the whole mess. Please ask her to be patient a little longer for those of us who know and love her.

Sincerely and with much love,

Mary Ferrell

P. S. From the above rambling, I hope you realize that if it is put to a vote, my vote is, "Yes, keep the Committee as is."