

NEW ADDRESS: Rt. 7, Frederick, Md. 21701

3/2/68

Dear Mrs. Moscatelli,

Your letter of 2/20 to Dell has been forwarded and just reached me.

It is interesting.

So I understand you to say that you predicted the President would be killed in Dallas, that you expected it? If so, could you elaborate.

There never was any psychiatric evidence on Oswald. The Commission preferred its own amateur psychiatry. Judging by what the professionals have done since, it is no loss!

He was in no sense in need of psychiatric attention. That is the official fiction in which the less responsible psychiatrists join-perhaps hoping it will get them more business-but not on the basis of anything solid or dependable.

Thanks for writing.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

February 20, 1968

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

I have had a chance to read most of your books about the Kennedy assassination and agree heartily with the basis of your questioning. I lived in Dallas with my family at the time and was dismayed at what had happened and what was going on in Dallas afterwards.

It was my concern before the Kennedy trip that it was so ugly for the country that there should be such disrespect for the President in a city that makes so much about patriotism as Dallas. Since I had this frame of mind and was pretty new in Dallas, I tried to answer the excessive fears of Kennedy on the part of some with such truth as I knew of Communism or other things.

Still after the murders there I took the view of what this would mean to the country and in the sense that the shame of an assassination was going to have an effect detrimental to the country. I even wrote to the Warren Commission as I began to perceive that this possibility was developing. More than that I had to place in the hands of God. In some ways I feared that your books had the effect of exaggerating some of this unwanted effect. I have a personal philosophy that does not readily take direction from others and was forced to do so, while I lived in Dallas. Had the Warren proceedings done anything but give mostly ideological interviews with rightists, who, in my opinion ought to pay for their propaganda like anyone else, I would have been contented with that. Nothing at all would have been preferable, if you take my then point-of-view of concern about what would happen to our country. I believed it more fitting to the times to keep faith in our Constitutional system and to memorialize the late President in appreciation for the contributions to the national spirit that he and his family embodied for so many. So it was that I could stand rebuff and the ugliness that Dallasites could mindlessly heap about the President and his admirers. What is the basis for institutions in a locale in which the young are raised to value violence and are kept ignorant of their own potential?

It is my belief that Dallas' politicians wanted to suppress any shade of responsibility for the Kennedy assassination so that they could later turn it to political effect by making so much of Lee Harvey Oswald. And his Communist leanings. The trend has been to have the effect of making President Kennedy responsible for his own murder as the Dallas News was fond of feeding the flames of hate with the claim that Kennedy was duped by the Communists.

As far as I know, I was one of the few persons in Dallas that tried to prevent the Kennedy murder in any way. I have faith in people's being capable of demonstrating wisdom in voting when they are able to inform themselves on their interests and to vote accordingly. I was active in most voter's campaigns to try to see that people did vote. The last time I did this I was placed in custody of psychiatrists in Dallas. I refused to cooperate in the interest of keeping my family together. My husband was instructed in what manner he ought to conduct his family matters and since he believes in psychiatry and holds the view that his childhood is responsible for what he does as an adult, he may be right with respect to his childhood. That I left between himself and his family. I hold that an American citizen has the right to care about such things in any state of this country as the prevention of an assassination. At that time and this it has been customary to place persons who warn of a murder of a public official in planning to be given psychiatric examination. I don't respect psychiatrists and that is my right. I don't care much for legislation being promulgated that has as its basis the matters concluded by the Warren proceedings. I despise the promotion of part truth in the popular press with respect to the psychiatric interpretations of crimes of violence because many of the victims of crimes are locked up in mental institutions by persons who trust so dearly for their being helped. This is the reality of the Warren proceedings from my point of view. I am not really afraid because I trust God and the things that are true with respect to the Warren Report existed and have effect along with the matters missed by the Warren Report. Real events have effect in the long run that the shadows of belief in the Oswald family history cannot shake. As interpreted by psychiatrists and some members of the Commission.

I am getting emotional in the way that your second book demonstrates your feelings on these matters. I try not to; but it is so very difficult. I have a wonderful child whose future should not be hurt because of my emotionality over the misinterpretation of past events by persons who probably can never be brought to understand what it means to live in Dallas. This emotionality tends to find answering response from some

who act as though the best remembrance of the late President is to call others names like Communist or fight about his manner of death and promote that as his memory more than the way in which he lived.

Apparently Mr. Robert Kennedy did not read the Warren proceedings and I am not surprised if that is true. For the promotion of legislation that has already been compromised in its effective intent as a consequence of the assassination and it is very sad that so much that happened can happen anyway. I invite your reply to this letter.

Yours truly,
Lorraine Brako Mescatelli

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