

ROUGH COPY ROUGH Draft

July 7, 1969

Senator Walter F. Mondale  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Mondale:

Thanks for your letter of July 3. While I am pleased that you plan to make inquiries "with the appropriate staffs in the Congress and the Executive Branch," and would be interested in hearing the results of such inquiries, I fear that such inquiries, judging from past experience, will provide you with little real insight into what the issues in this controversy are. The Justice Department, for instance, continues to give congressmen and the public alike assurances that all is right with the Warren Report and yet when all of those fine lawyers and researchers get their day in court, their case was found to be full of holes, and even their last-minute and at times absurd nitpicking could not prevent their loss of the verdict. Even after 5 years of preparation they could not successfully challenge the claim that there is "substantial evidence that shots were fired from more than one direction." Added to this is the fact that their letters of reassurance, which I know you have seen, make the claim that critics of the Warren Commission claim to have no new evidence. As I pointed out in my first letter to you, this is not only patently false, but absurd as well. Last but not least, Ted Kufperman (R-NY), who asked for a reopening of the investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy, did so after having applied to a number of agencies and individuals within the government for answers to just a few critical questions which arose in his mind from just a brief reading of criticism of the Warren Report and, of course, the Report itself.

While I would be glad at some future date to discuss these issues with you, that experience has taught me that the best method of presenting this material, whether to congressmen or average citizens, is via slides and movies, so ideally both our interests would be served best by a conference in either Minnesota or Washington at which I could let you examine the evidence for yourself. Representative Donald Fraser has seen a hasty presentation of some of this material in the home of a mutual friend, Dr. Morris Visscher, so he could give you an opinion of its worth. Unfortunately, Ted Kufperman is no longer a member of the congress, so he isn't available for conversation. There are, however, two ex-Senate investigators in the Washington area who are working on the case: Harold Weisberg [Route 8--Box 304, Frederick, MD 21701 301 473-0186] and Bernard Fensterwald, Jr. [927 15th St NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 2047-3837 or, his home phone in Arlington: 703 527-4500]. Harold probably qualifies as the world's foremost authority on this subject, while Bud is newer to the case, although he is director of the Committee to Investigate Assassinations after having recently resigned as chief counsel for the Senate Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Procedure. Either one might be able to answer your questions or meet with you at the National Archives to view the files of the assassination which are available there. A number of congressmen have found the latter to be a short and easy way (the archives being only a few blocks from the Senate office buildings) to gain a rudimentary knowledge of the crucial questions about what happened in Dealy Plaza in 1963.

Warmest regards.

Sincerely,

Gary Richard Schoener

GRS/lf  
cc:grs, lw, hf