

The record, I believe improperly, trades on my name and others, as does the book. Our names were then much in the news. Mine is one of the three names used on the cover, under the head, "The Truth About". The book and the record have never been known by the full name. This was design. They are known as and we are called "Scavengers". The rest of the title, the small print, is "and Critics of the Warren Report". It is obvious that the qualification was so that one who could complain could be told he was a "critic", not a "scavenger". This whole thing began immediately after Governor Connally called us "scavengers", Mark Lane by name the rest of us by description. The real intent is disclosed on the very first page, under the heading "From Dallas to Dollars", where they say "self-appointed critics have emerged from the national woodwork and have apparently and profitably convinced a large segment of the public that the Commission's conclusions are subject to doubt."

The record is called "The Controversy".

I will return to this slander about commercialism and "scavenging" in comment on what they wrote about me.

They interviewed people not used on the record. Schiller has been a partisan from the first, although hidden so we didn't know it. It is reported that one of the people he interviewed, a reporter who had moved to Mexico, was asked questions the very next day by the FBI, which went over the same ground Schiller hid.

Further bearing on malice is the introduction by Bob Considine, where we are called "a cult of opportunists and crackpots" (page 9); "grave robbers" (page 10). In the foreword Lewis and Schiller proclaim "our facts are accurate, well researched, and that our motives are honest" (page 13). Their work, as a matter of fact, is as grossly inaccurate as their motive compels and the brevity of the time it covered made inevitable had they decent motives. A minor example, having to do with the Zaprunder film, over which they tax me, is on page 17, where they say the Secret Service numbered its scenes. The very testimony they cite in the text eliminates this as a possibility. The FBI did it.

Knowing nothing about the introduction, the foreword or any other comment at the time, but having heard they were doing a book for Dell, and being with Carl Tobey and Steve Beir (I think after the World-Journal-Tribune piece appeared) I warned them of the probability of libel. John Starr was with me.

Reference to Dell reminds me that while the contract provides my book would get as good treatment as any other, they have withdrawn it but still have Scavengers on sale. I saw it 5/17/69 at the bookshop in Friendship Airport, Baltimore, where it but neither of the WHITEWASH books has been on sale for at least a year, probably much longer.

What follows will not exhaust all the error they print with the purpose of libelling me, but I hope it will be enough. This relates to both the Dell and the Meredith printings, for this is the chapter Meredith reprinted, using me to give it credence and making their own malice clear in the commentary prior to their use of the last chapter of WHITEWASH II, without permission. Meredith had to use such defamatory material to offer the pretense of impartiality. Neither they nor Dell made any effort to check accuracy with me, not even after I warned Tobey and Beir that what Schiller and Lewis had already used was libellous. In the Meredith case, their printing was so late that anyone making the slightest pretense of knowing the field, as their anthologist does, had to know of the gross inaccuracy of the writing.

I believe the damage continues and is particularly hurtful now (with more references to Meredith than Dell and with reference to the Epstein-New York Times Sunday Magazine article) because I have three books ready and being offered.