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Sylvia Meagher's *Accessories After the Fact*.⁴⁰ Meagher probably knew the twenty-six volumes of the Warren Commission hearings and exhibits better than any other critic. A year earlier, she had published an index to all twenty-six volumes. It was received as an important contribution for research since the volumes originally had only a name index, making it almost impossible to work effectively with the more than 1 million-plus words.* Her book concentrated on any testimony or exhibits that raised doubts about the final report. Meagher was a committed leftist, and her politics are clear throughout the book. She admitted that when JFK's death was announced, and before Oswald was arrested, she derisively told her co-workers, "Don't worry . . . you'll see, it was a Communist who did it." When Oswald was taken into custody and she heard of his pro-Castro activities and his Russian wife, she knew he was "framed." In *Accessories*, she charged that large numbers of the Dallas police were members of "right-wing extremist organizations," and spoke derisively of the forces behind the assassination, including "American Nazi thugs."⁴¹ Meagher fueled the speculation about Penn Jones's list of mystery deaths by stating "the witnesses appear to be dying like flies." Her invective about the Commission was as harsh as that of anyone since Lane's *Rush to Judgment*.

Subsequent events, however, had significant impact on the de-

*Because it is the only index of its kind, Meagher's has been used extensively, even by the House Select Committee in its reinvestigation. However, the author, in reading the twenty-six volumes, made a new card index and compared it to Meagher's publication. Her subject index reflects her bias that Oswald was innocent. For instance, under her listing for Oswald's potential for violence, Meagher does not find a reference until Volume II, and lists a total of only twenty-three incidents in the volumes that relate to that subject. The author, however, discovered the first supporting reference was in the first volume, and there were more than fifty citations just in the fifteen volumes of testimony. There are quite a few other examples in which Meagher's index underplays evidence that incriminates Oswald but meticulously lists references that tend to exonerate him or raise doubts. That prejudice is critical since the index was marketed as a scholarly undertaking and is universally used by researchers. It means those who use the index are following each other in making the same mistakes and unwittingly ignoring evidence that buttresses the Commission's conclusions.