

Hank Weisberg
700 S. State
Chgo

Mr. Weisberg

Dear Mr. Weisberg —

I sent the enclosed clippings to Mr. Garrison, Mark Lane, Sylvia Meagher, and Atty. Hoerner early in December. None has acknowledged receipt of them.

This fellow Vallee was picked up on Nov. 2 — three weeks before Dallas — and not a word of it appeared in any Chicago paper until 11 days after JFK was assassinated!

I have read all of your books on the murder, and congratulate you on the fine work.

Sincerely,

Hank Cettinger

less the very best, hopelessly prejudiced by the pressure of the press)

To say this however is also to note a familiar fault in Lane's book. He writes as an advocate. As advocates do, he occasionally slips— for example, if the language of a witness can be construed in either sense, he construes it in the sense most favorable to his case. He does not follow his procedure to anything like the lengths to which the authors of the Warren Report itself have shown themselves prepared to go. But one is always conscious that he is presenting a case. To present the case with the high professional skill which Lane was indeed his inestimable service to the public.

Since Mrs. Meagher's approach to the subject is so different, it has been relatively carefully. As author of *Accessories After the Fact and the Warren Report* (Scarcecrow Press, New York, 1967) she has acquired a familiarity with the basic data which I believe to be unrivalled; certainly, as is amply demonstrated by the internal evidence of the Report.

Dr. Meagher served in the Irish Foreign Service, was the U.N. Secretary-General's Civilian Representative in Katanga, and later, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana. He is at present Albert Schweitzer Professor in the Humanities at New York University. He is author of *Maria Cross* (1952), *Purnell and the Pury* (1957), *To Katanga and Back* (1962), and *Writers and Politics* (1965). His latest book, *Sacred Drama*, is scheduled for publication in the spring by Simon and Schuster.

... the authors of the report... far inferior to Mrs. Meagher in their command of the data on which they claimed to rely. *Accessories After the Fact* is not a case against the Report but a methodical and exhaustive critique of it. It would not be true to say that it is a cold demonstration; Mrs. Meagher does not altogether conceal her entirely legitimate anger and scorn towards those who perpetrated this great fraud upon the public, towards those who hailed the fraud for its majestic integrity, and towards those who still reserve for the fraud their politic acquiescence. She also shows—and it emerges in her dedication—deep indignation at the cruelty and injustice of the official world, not only towards Lee Harvey Oswald but towards the inconvenient witnesses in the case, so many of whom were belied by Commission Counsel, traduced in the Commission's Report, and subsequently harried in their personal lives and subjected to a mortality-rate millions of times higher than their comparable fellow-citizens.

"Speculation" vs. "Facts"

Mrs. Meagher does not conceal her feelings about these proceedings, but she keeps them well under control. Indeed the presence of strong emotion beneath her usually level and measured prose, gives her analysis at times an almost Swiftian resonance. Her

Accessories After the Fact: The Warren Commission, the Authorities & the Report. by Sylvia Meagher. Bobbs-Merrill, Indianapolis-New York, 1967. 477 pp.—\$8.50.

... by a dry wit, which one feels she must have liked to resist but which is adapted and imposed on her by the character of the case, and ludicrous, of the Report itself. It appears when systematically compared with the evidence from which it purports to derive. Comic effects which she may not necessarily desire are elicited by the necessities of summarizing what the Commission's Report, when analyzed, is found to say, as in the following passage: "One day in January, 1963, Oswald was cleaning his rifle (which was mailed by Klein's Sporting Goods some two months later in March, 1963) . . ."

Sometimes the comic effect is obtained not by any specimen of language on Mrs. Meagher's part, but from the Commission's own magisterial posture, suddenly brought into contact with one more of the tin tacks lurking in its evidence. Thus the Commission indulges in the practice of labelling various kinds of statements, which have in common only that they fall into the "inconvenient" category, as "speculation" while labelling as "fact" various cases which it wishes to commend to the public. This is a procedure which struck awe into almost all the earlier commentators on the Report, from *The New York Times* to the *New Statesman* (but not into *The Minority One*). Mrs. Meagher, facts in hand, is easy to overawe:

Warren Commission Report: *Speculation*: The rifle found on the sixth floor of the Texas Schoolbook Depository

(Minority of One,
Dec. '67)

Lawyers tell of plot here to kill JFK

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (AP)—Three attorneys in a news conference Tuesday said the Secret Service had known of a plot to kill President Kennedy in Chicago.

The information came from a former Secret Service agent, Abraham W. Bolden, 32, now imprisoned at the federal medical center in Springfield, his attorney, John Hosmer, said.

Hosmer, Mark Lane, a lawyer and author of a book on the Kennedy investigation, and Richard V. Burnes, assistant to Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison of New Orleans, held the news conference.

Garrison has instituted an inquiry in New Orleans. He has said he has evidence that a group of conspirators based in New Orleans was responsible for the assassination of Kennedy.

Hosmer, of Marshfield, Mo., said Bolden told him he was railroaded into prison after being refused permission to tell the Warren Commission about his information.

LANE SAID the Secret Service had been informed that an attempt on Kennedy's life would be made on a planned visit to Chicago. The President's appearance later was canceled, Lane said, out of fear for his safety.

The attorneys said Bolden told them that he and other agents even shadowed one suspect in Chicago as a result of the report. Bolden was sentenced in Chicago two years ago to six years' imprisonment for conspiring to sell of-

ficial information in a counterfeiting case.

Bolden, first Negro named to the Secret Service's White House detail, was not in Dallas when Kennedy was shot and slain Nov. 22, 1963.

When Bolden was asked to testify before the Warren Commission, Hosmer said, he was arrested and convicted in the counterfeiting case on perjured testimony.

Convicted here for conspiracy

Abraham Bolden, former Secret Service agent, was convicted in U.S. District Court here in August, 1964, of conspiring to sell confidential government information.

At the time, Bolden said he was "framed" to keep him from testifying before the Warren Commission about alleged drinking and laxity among fellow Secret Service agents assigned to guard President Kennedy.

THE KEY WITNESS against Bolden was Joseph Spagnoli, then a suspect in a counterfeiting case. Spagnoli testified that Bolden offered him \$25,000 to set up the sale of a Secret Service report on the counterfeiting ring for \$50,000.

Spagnoli and five other men later were convicted of counterfeiting and conspiracy. During his own trial in District Court, Spagnoli testified that he had lied in his testimony during the Bolden trial.

However, Spagnoli did not disown that part of his testimony that was most damaging to Bolden.

*— Chi Daily News
12-6-67*

12-6-67

Quiz North Sider On Weapons Count

Cops Seize Gun-Toting Kennedy Fan

Detectives Tuesday disclosed the arrest of a gun collecting malcontent who expressed violent anti-Kennedy views before the assassination of the late President.

Thomas Vallee, 30, of 4614 N. Paulina st., had been so critical of President Kennedy, police charged, that he said:

"If Kennedy is not defeated in the next election by Sen. Barry Goldwater [R., Ariz.], the people in the United States might as well throw away the Constitution."

Vallee had several firearms and 20,000 rounds of ammunition, which were confiscated from his apartment.

Knife on Seat
His car was halted on Nov. 2 for making an illegal turn and police discovered a hunting knife on the seat next to Vallee. He told them:

"I usually carry a carbine and 300 rounds of ammo in the trunk, just for protection in case of a sudden attack by a foreign power."

Vallee was charged with unlawful possession of a weapon, taken to Jury court on Nov. 26, and a copy of the police report was sent to the secret service.

After questioning Vallee, Detectives Lawrence Coffey and James Madden accompanied him to his apartment and found a carbine, an M-2 rifle, a .22-caliber single action target pistol, and the ammunition.

Case Continued
When Vallee appeared in court, his case was continued to Dec. 11.

The police recommended that the court confiscate Vallee's weapons, even tho they quoted Vallee as telling them he would "certainly make a similar purchase" as soon as he was able to do so.

Seized for Assault
Vallee was arrested July 5 for assault with a pistol. He said he joined the marines in 1948, at the age of 15, and served for 7 years, including action in Korea.

Vallee said he is employed by the I. P. P. Lithoplate corporation at 625 Jackson Blvd. He is free on bond.

CHI AMERICAN
DEC 3, 1963

Federal agents Tuesday moved to question a North Side man arrested on a concealed weapons charge less than an hour before the late President Kennedy was to arrive here Nov. 2.

Thomas A. Vallee, 30, a lithographer, said he is a "disaffiliated" member of the John Birch Society but had no intention of trying to assassinate the President.

"The only one who can take the President's life is the Almighty," Vallee said in his \$95-a-month apartment at 4614 N. Paulina. "But I did not have anything to do with Mr. Kennedy's death—in fact, I'm sorry about it."

VALLEE was stopped for a traffic violation at Damen and Wilson, where police found a hunting knife and 2,000 rounds of ammunition in his car, and three weapons in his apartment.

He was held by Summerdale police until after President Kennedy had canceled his trip to the Army-Air Force Football game in Soldier Field.

Vallee said he returned to his native Chicago from New York City last August and is making more than \$200 a week as a color lithographer for IPP Litho Plate Corp., 625 W. Jackson.

His apartment contained John Birch Society literature, a Goldwater button, and a fatigue cap he wore during his seven years in the Marines, where he was awarded the Purple Heart and oak leaf cluster for wounds suffered in the Korean War.

*— Chi Daily News
12-3-63*

These stories appeared 11 days after they killed JFK.