

441  
Hampstead, N.C.  
November 27, 1963

Dear Mr. Ruby:

I am writing you for many reasons. First I want to thank you for doing something for me, something that I would gladly have done myself had I had the opportunity. I would never have been able to rest again until the slayer of our president was dead.

Second, you must realize that for many reasons, the official position of everyone—news media and public officials—must be that your act was wrong. Before the lid was clamped down on such reports, radio and TV were reporting that people were suggesting that you receive a medal. Few people can openly praise you for your act. You should not feel that everyone is against you. Many of us are very much with you. Too, you must realize that passions cool and soon the people will have forgotten that when they heard the news of the killer's death they said, "I'm glad." You know it must have been a comfort to the Kennedys to know that the slayer had already met his reward before the president was laid to rest.

I am sorry that the news media have felt it necessary to bring up your past. Personally your past is not material in this case. You were a patriot at this moment when you thought your country needed you. You acted. This is all that counts. That is all a country could ask.

Your act was legally wrong and God may judge it to be morally wrong. I have great faith in the fact that God is just and that he only expects us to do what we think is right. I am sure that you thought what you did was right. God will forgive. So, that leaves you to settle with man and his laws. I understand that you will plead temporary insanity. Surely this is a valid plea. We were all a little insane at this time of great sadness. I consider myself quite sane but given the opportunity you were given, I honestly believe I would have done the same as you did. Certainly if I did not act as you did, it would have been from lack of courage and not from lack of desire.

Because your feelings at this time of national tragedy so closely paralleled my own, I shall always feel a great brotherhood with you and I am sure many in this nation feel the same. If I can help financially or otherwise you have but to ask. I want to do something for you because I share your guilt if there is guilt as I shared your triumph if there was triumph.

May God bless you and keep you.

Sincerely yours

*W. T. Batchelor*

William T. Batchelor

XERO  
COPY

XERO  
COPY

XERO  
COPY

XERO  
COPY

25A-185