

14 November 1966

Dear Maggie,

Thanks for sending the copies of your correspondence with the Senators and Congressman. Yes, it is indeed ironic--tragic, in terms of American "liberalism"--that it fell to Murphy to send the only responsive and responsible reply. I have taken the liberty of forwarding the letters to Arnoni, for his information, which I hope is okay with you.

Yesterday I was interviewed by Epoca, for five hours--I thought I would die of sheer exhaustion. Caputo, who interviewed me, was very bright. He is a recent convert to the critics, quite well informed about the case, for a novice. His story will be in Epoca 11/22/66 issue, and will include interviews with Salandria, Harold Feldman, Kupferman, me, and one or two others of whom he was not yet certain. He even coaxed an old photograph out of me.

Esquire, which will be on the newsstands tomorrow, sent out a press release on Friday. Their public relations man has called me twice today already--he says they have never had such an overwhelming response. He expects stories in all the papers and on TV. The reason for the excitement is the Nix frame which reveals a station-wagon behind the low concrete wall and what is thought by some to be a man with a rifle or other weapon. I first saw the picture during August, but under oaths of secrecy, etc. Ray and maybe Lifton probably know about it. Actually, the Nix frames in the Hearings and Exhibits show the vehicle fairly plainly. The Nix picture is in Epstein's part of the story, not in mine; actually, I am not even sure that Esquire got the Nix picture from Epstein. I think they got wind of it and obtained a copy from UPI.

The three-hour TV extravaganza was shown on Saturday night and was not nearly as bad as Sauvage had led me to expect--because, as he told me afterwards, they had done some emergency re-editing after the preview resulted in a dull thud of boredom by the audience. Lane was certainly effective; and, at times, so were Sauvage and Weisberg. Penn was just pathetic, just out of his league completely. And Jacob Cohen was his own poisonous self--everyone who saw it reacted very negatively to him, and he made no friends for the WR. All in all, it is one for our side. NY Times gave it several non-committal columns today; I hear rumors that they are working on a "very big story" on the WR; and it seems certain now, from information from both Lane and Sauvage, that Harrison Salisbury has formally changed his position on the WR.

I tried to phone Penn yesterday to see if he had learned anything more about Worrell; but he was not available. Labro of France-Soir phoned me from the airport where he was waiting for the Dallas plane; he says he will call me from there if he gets anything of interest (if so, I will try to call you).

The Open Mind tape on the WR (Epstein Rovere Lane Liebeler Griffin) was listed for noon yesterday but was preempted by the astronaut's walk in space --I hope it will be rescheduled for next Sunday but I don't know.

I had a note from Hinckle regretting that I had been so offended by the "satire" and, for lack of any better explanation, insinuating that if only I had a sense of humor I would be co-equal with the intellectual avant-garde, i.e., Ramparts editorial staff. Well, what else could he say?

The current issue of The Nation has an editorial on the autopsy x-rays and photos--even THEY are troubled by the stringent inaccessibility and call for having them seen, the sooner the better. Kupferman is going to request a look at the photos and x-rays, not by himself but he wants me and one (or maybe two) forensic pathologists to accompany him. I am not packing my bags, because I am certain he will be turned down. He had mentioned this to me last week, when we did the Barry Gray broadcast; and phoned me about it yesterday. We will talk about it further when he returns from a trip he is taking.

I am utterly disgusted with Epstein. I understand he claims he was misquoted on the x-rays and photos. And Sauvage did a video tape last Friday for Toronto, with Epstein Liebeler and Griffin, and told me afterwards that Epstein was much stronger than usual and did pretty well. Just the same, I don't forgive him for his finking--nor for his opportunism and apparent ambition to be in the RFK cabinet, at all costs. The feverish interest in the case has flushed out all the finks--I need not name them, I am sure. I guess when the pressure gets rough we will find ourselves back to the same tiny original group; and I think I would welcome it, for the most part.

I am sorry that I missed Joe Jr.'s interview of Sylvan Fox. Did anyone manage to tape it for you? Both Bill and I were ready to tape on Tuesday but missed the boat in the end.

Much love, dear. Do write when you can, phonecalls are never long enough, nor can they be, and I do miss your letters.

Love,