

Monday
8th Aug. '65

Dear Sylvia

Let ever more addendae!! I know you'll most likely be in Miami when this reaches you - but it isn't important to the scheme of things - and whenever something pops into my purported brain, I have the urge to communicate to you! So here I go again.

I was reading Croy's testimony, after having absorbed your excellent chapter (section, if you like) on Tippit. I must confess that I quite deliberately skipped over much of the testimony of the police boobs concerning the entire wangle-bangle of the basement security (!) measures & Ruby's entry therein because I anticipated that it would be a series of exceedingly dull, illiterate exchanges overcoated with unmitigated lies. Thus, I had, in all honesty, read very little of Volume XII (except for Curry, Decker, Reird, Vaughn & Dean). In reading Croy's testimony last night, therefore, (& needless to say it bore out my pre-conception ~~paradigm~~ with perfect fidelity!) I was struck by one detail, in particular - one which might readily be classified as "nit-picking" (although one term, isn't it?) and which falls into the category of the

myriad & stunning coincidences, but which nevertheless, demands attention and that is the answer Croy gives Griffin to Griffin's question: "Where did you go to eat?" Croy: "Austin Barbecue" (p. 205). One cannot do much with this kind of thing but you do know that Tippit worked at Austin's Barbecue, when off-duty - and that Austin is one of the leading Birchers in town. That, in itself, is perhaps insignificant but, on the other hand, Johnny Brewer at one time, worked for Hunt - (as did Andrew Armstrong) - and Tippit also worked at the Texas Theatre when off duty. Then there is the business of Klause having done some printing jobs for the Council and so on and so forth, until there's quite a nice (?) little web, there - to say nothing of Harry Schmidt's brother having been a paid aide (full-time) to Walker. * Co-hort Ray Marcus, checked in last night - he'd been on vacation for the past 10 days - so I was on the 'phone for about 45 minutes trying to bring him up to date and ^{acquaint him with} all your recent exchanges. He is a mature person and quite stable emotionally - (in contrast to Dave) - and he was fascinated with your conversations with Salamanca and Sawage. He became quite irritated with Sawage's attitude and feels he is arrogant and frightfully opinionated and can't bear to have anyone else make a contribution which he may have overlooked! I'm inclined to agree. When I mentioned the Austin Barbecue link between Croy

and Tippit, Ray's comment was: "You forget that probably
ever other person in Dallas belongs to the Birch Society."
Touchee!

Another thing I stumbled upon as a result of your
having directed my attention to the police testimonies in
Vol. XII, is that choice moment in Wm Newman's interroga-
tion by Griffin, when Griffin finally loses his temper,
after having listened to a steady stream of deliberate
falsehoods + evasions, and says to Newman: "You're a
damned liar" !! lovely, wasn't it! (p. 323)

Incidentally, Ray - although granting that Geo. Thomson
is, indeed, a nut - is somehow suspicious of him; - Ray
has talked to him & got the feeling that he has been
working with the FBI - (he did dedicate his masterpiece
to them) and may be deliberately making absurd claims,
backed up by certain accurate contributing events, in
order to put someone else's attacks into disrepute.
I don't know. Perhaps there is validity in Ray's suspicion
& perhaps he's off on a ~~of~~ wild tangent - one ends up
wondering about practically everything! In that connec-
tion, I wondered if Oswald's alleged reference to the Secret
Service man he encountered at the TSBD might not
also have been a deliberate plant in order to justify
the appearances on the scene of other S.S. agents!
This kind of speculation, of course, can go on ad nauseam

and leads nowhere but is nevertheless inevitable.

Having neglected to fulfill your request to submit a copy of ~~Robert~~ ^{Robert} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~letter~~ ^{letter} to me, I enclose one herewith.

Incidentally, do you happen to have any copy of the news item concerning Mc. Donald's visit to Mrs. Kennedy? I stupidly failed to clip it that day & would like to have it just for my records. Also, do you have any record of the interview between, I believe, Jos. Loftus & Eva Grant, a few days after the assassination, in which she spoke not only of the deep and all-abiding Ruby-Tippit friendship ~~(that)~~... and this man [Oswald] not only shot the President but Officer Tippit [Ruby had known J. D. Tippit who was shot dead while trying to intercept Oswald]... they were like brothers."

Now, I have that clipping up to the last and key phrase "they were like brothers" - BUT I don't have the name of the reporter although I know it was one of the N.Y. Times men who were down there at that time - nor do I have the date - and the saddest part of all is that I gave the little clipping to my husband's secretary, a long time ago, so have it Xeroxed on their office machine and when she returned it to me, that key sentence was lost, having got jammed in the machine! Well, my dear, even though Mrs. Grant has since denied ever making that statement - and even tho' I do have another interview she gave along those same lines to Dom Bonafede and Stuart Leary of the Herald-Tribune (Dec. 5th '63) - I would

give anything to get a copy of the one I'm referring to 5.
WITH THE KEY PHRASE included, & showing the
name of the reporter, because established & reputable
reporters of the Calibre of Joseph Loftus - (or it might
have been Tom Wicker - Peter Ribbs, Jack Langguth or
D. Janson) are not given to making completely
untruthful and irresponsible reportorial gaffes.
She can deny all the likes but she is on record
with equally reputable reporters of the Tribune and
she did make the same claims to the Times.
Sylvia - you can't imagine what I've been thru
trying to track that interview down - and I've
had not one measure of success. While in N.Y.
last February, I spent 4-5 hours in the microfilm
library and I looked at every column of every page of
the N.Y. Times - in every issue - from Nov. 22nd thru Jan. 1st
and I never found it - nor any reference to it in the
files under Grant's name or Tappin's. I asked the people
in Kane's office to help me because they had everything
imaginable on file & they didn't know of it; I wrote to
Loftus & never received a reply. - I wrote the N.Y. Times
Morgue etc., etc. - all zero. No one I know has any
knowledge of it - and I'd think I had dreamed the
whole thing up except for the fact that I do have the
rest of the clipping as quoted on page 4 of this letter and
am only missing the phrase about their being "like brothers"

in addition to the fact that Buchanan also mentioned
that particular interview but failed to give the date
or name of the reporter. I know it's a comparatively in-
significant did-bit in the scheme of things - but I do
need it for one of my refutations and the clipping that
I have is sufficiently emaculated so as to miss the
emphatic, dramatic impact of ~~the original~~
(with) how close the relationship between Ruby + Tippit
actually was. ^{That phrase} goes quite a long way toward ridicul-
ing the dogmatic statement of the WC (I quite like your use of
initials - you know what they represent in French!)
to wit: "nor is there credible evidence that any of
the 3 men knew each other."

And now enough of my seemingly endless prattle.

Looking forward eagerly to the next installments
and/or any word whatever from you. (It's beginning to
be like "The Perils of Pauline"! - I'm not quite that old,
really! -)

Cordly, if equivoically,
Maggie.

P.S. Have you seen Aug. 1st N.Y. Times (Sunday ed.) of the Peter
Kihos story on the Sobell trial?? (p. 66). It's a corker
and has extremely encouraging overtones!