

March 6, 1977

Dear Sylvia,

I'm sorry for not writing sooner, but quite frankly things have been occurring so rapidly on the case that the story has changed almost daily.

I'm including my last two NEW TIMES pieces which I think represent a fair encapsulation of what's going on. I'm also including the original draft of my last piece since much of it was edited out.

I'm afraid I'm rapidly losing faith in Sprague. He's an incredible egotist, and his arrogance is really resented in Washington. His attitude (including with the House leadership) is basically: "you hired me to do a job. Now go away and let me do it." That kind of attitude just doesn't fly down there. Sprague and his staff of cops and prosecutors are convinced that there was a conspiracy and that the Government is trying to shut them down to keep them from finding it. Unfortunately, the cops and prosecutors are running the show and seem to think that they can pursue the case as if it were an ordinary homicide. There has been a great reluctance to associate with the critics, and even the researchers on the staff who know something about the case find that their knowledge and advice is resented.

I think that there is little hope that the committee will survive, and even if it does, they will have to adapt a very different approach and realize the unique character of the cases they are investigating. Mary Farrel, incidentally, has shut off all contact with the committee and refuses to take their calls.

I'm sorry for the bad news. I did promise to keep you informed, and I felt I had to keep my word. I hope that you're having a fabulous cruise. Drop me a card from some exotic stopping off point.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jerry".