

1622 Cadiz Street,  
New Orleans,  
La. 70130  
May 8, 1969

Dear Sylvia,

Many thanks for your interesting letter. I was very sorry to hear about Bob Ockene, and shall of course keep it secret. I was a little surprised by Hoch's comment to you, which suggests that for some reason he is reluctant to face reality. He always seemed fairly objective, and is undoubtedly knowledgeable about the case. If he, then, is in that position, think of how many other people must be, only more so, if you see what I mean.

67 I enclose pages 22-30 of the diary. I now reckon that it will total about 45 pages--ie over 30,000 words, which is much more substantial than I had thought it would be. What a pity I didn't keep it from June to September every day; that was a period of great interest. By contrast, from about April to December, 1968, by which time (ie from April on) I had given up the diary, little or nothing happened.

I take note of your remarks regarding Look, and I think you are most probably correct in what you say. Certainly I shall make no move without consulting my lawyer, and I certainly agree that the best thing would be to have the diary appear as a part of a manuscript--of which it would form a fairly substantial part.

I return herewith the LA Free Press clips, which in fact I already have. It was the week after the March 21 issue (which you sent) that I was interested in. Do you have that by any chance? Did you ever find out what caused Kevin to change his mind?

Not much happened in the most recent court appearance. The judge ruled against the latest motion --for him to set a fee in advance for the lawyer appointed to act in the DA's place--and my lawyer then filed writs with the La. Supreme Court appealing his decision. An obviously delaying tactic, though how long the delay will be, I don't know.

I was not aware that Jones Harris had "rather strong feelings" about my position. At the risk of seeming over-sensitive on the subject, would you object to telling me what those feelings are? Of course, one thing that concerns me is that people should be thinking that I received money for giving the information. Does Jones realise that Shaw is innocent? I think he may fall into that rather pusillanimous category of people who believe that, "well, I don't believe that Shaw conspired, and I don't think he should have been convicted, but I'm sure he was the real Clay Bertrand, and obviously he was involved in some way."

I agree with your analysis of why Hoch, and undoubtedly many others, find Epstein's book "unpersuasive". Which is really a pity, because it is really a very good book. It is extremely accurate, and it was certainly an achievement on his part to have reconstructed events so well on relatively slender information. Hoch should attempt to pinpoint something he disagrees with Epstein about, instead of calling it "unpersuasive".

I am glad you are enjoying the diary. At least I can feel I am doing it for someone. I am providing copies for both my lawyer and Shaw's, but it is like sending letters to someone who is dead. I'm afraid they tend to suffer from the "very busy man" syndrome, and probably hardly bother to read it, if at all.

very best wishes,

*Tom*