

8 March 1966

Dear Lillian,

Thanks for your letter and enclosures. The item from the Paris edition of the NY Herald Tribune is fantastic. I wonder what it means--if anything? I have finally got hold of "A Texan Looks at Lyndon," which Penn had urged me to read...but I am so terribly busy that I don't know when I will find time to read it. For the same reason, I very much doubt if I will be able to contact Gun, and I hope that you will understand, Lillian. You know that I am more than willing to do anything I can, when I am able, but we are starting a very busy period at the office, when my responsibilities will be heavy (until end of June), probably with overtime; and I am swamped as it is with my manuscript on Ruby (which may have to be a separate one, as the length is becoming excessive). This is not a definite "no" but just an explanation that I don't really expect to find time now.

I am very disappointed to learn that RAMPARTS is delaying the first issue in its "campaign" to June instead of going through with the original plan for April. Of course, these delays can almost be taken for granted in any publishing venture, and I half-expected that there would be some hitch--or hitches. Just the same, I regret it very much.

Yesterday I finally got hold of the current TMO, for some reason my subscription copy did not arrive yet. The fact that they didn't even get the author's name correctly--"Victor" Salandria, yet!--is shocking. As for the article itself, frankly I think it is poor. The material is rather stale and he didn't make the best of what there is.

Someone told me, but I don't know how reliable the information is, that William Manchester has "cracked up." This case is not for the faint-hearted, or for those who have low tolerance for stress, is it? I certainly hope that Vince is not developing an intellectual rigidity. By the way, I have not heard again from Penn; nor did he show up in New York, as I half expected. Any news of him?

About the 14 pictures--they are probably not new or important; they just happened to be unfamiliar to me, and if I had had the time I would have liked to study them a bit more. There was a photo of the exterior of the N Beckley St boarding house; of the exterior of Parkland Hospital, with the crowds but no sign of Ruby; Senator Russell with rifle at the 6th floor window 9/9/64; the outside of the homicide office with uniformed policemen on guard, but no date (may be a photo taken long after 11/22/63); and some photos of trauma room no. 1 a year later; etc. Nothing sensational. If and when I have time, I will go back to UPI and look at them again, and if I feel any are worth buying, I will buy them. (I am not really THAT broke! Yet!)

I haven't heard anything yet from the Academy of Forensic Sciences; nor has Sauvage, who wrote also. He doesn't seem to feel that it is a particularly reputable or important organization. But we will see. MUST get back to work before I get my head handed to me. Love to you and Maggie, etc. (Please tell Maggie about Manchester.)