

1 August 1970

Dear Mary,

You are entitled to give me a dig for the ending of the article. When I had read only part of the Newman book, I felt that he would have been an asset to our side, because he had done his homework instead of swallowing the Warren Report in one gulp. But by the time I got to the end of the book, I felt too disappointed and irritated to regret his alliance with the opposition. He did, after all, swallow much of the official nonsense, carelessly and uncritically--the autopsy evidence, the shots, the rest of the tiresome fiction--and he very blindly or very unfairly overlooked a major hole in his own thesis. That is, the fatal conflict between his insistence all along that Oswald systematically concealed his presence in Dallas so that he could shoot Walker without coming under suspicion, and the fact that Oswald publicly denounced Walker at the ACLU meeting at the end of October. So, on balance, it seemed to me that he did not really merit much regret.

But since I did not write and explain my change of heart, I can understand how strange the last sentence of the article must have seemed to you. By the way, the editor of the Texas Observer says that she will print another article I had sent in (dealing with Charles Givens, the forgotten cigarettes, etc.) in an early issue.

Yesterday I departed from my office and need not return until Monday the 31st. I am going up to the country for a few days, to stay with my niece and her little brood (three girls, one boy demon), during which time Allegra will board with a retired schoolteacher and her widow sister, who live not far from my apartment. I found them through an ad they had placed in the NY Times, and they came here to see Allegra the other night. She passed the test and they agreed to give her tender loving care. I arranged to bring her to them just before going up to the country and if all went well and she seemed contented, to let her stay on while I went on to Dallas. If the arrangement does not work out for any reason, then I will bring her to Dallas with me.

In any case, I expect to make a flight to Dallas on Wednesday, the 12th of August, or perhaps even a few days earlier. I will make a reservation at the Sheraton-Dallas hotel before I leave, and I will call you and tell you the date, flight number, and time of arrival. I am really beginning to be excited about the prospect of meeting you and Arch, and seeing Dealey Plaza and the other landmarks.

Until then,

Sincerely,