

Replied by
phone, 7 pm
9/14/70

September 11, 1970 (P.M.)

Dear Sylvia:

Perhaps I should take the time to write a more coherent letter now that I am over my initial shock. When I first read the long, rambling letter from Harold this morning, I was so furious that I dashed off the one you have probably received and read by the time you get this more liesurely one.

I used the term "insane" about Harold. This was wrong! Harold is not lucid at all times, but he is not insane. He accuses Bud, Sprague, Al Chapman and Cutler of "ego-tripping" but I rather suspect that this term (whatever it means) applies more to Harold than to anyone else. I know he has devoted his life for the past six and a half years to the investigation. I know that he has dug patiently in the Archives and has uncovered many things... But, I also know that many of us have also dug into the Archives. And, just because we discovered CD-1 in its entirety two days after Harold did should not prohibit us from using it in any way we see fit.

I am not at all angry with David for what he has but rather for the fact that he has "used" so many of us and lied to us and refused to cooperate with us when we have been ready to help him in any and every way we could to produce an end result which would benefit us, our country and inevitably the entire world.

David is sick! But, many of us are "sick." Sick with worry, frustrations, doubts--about ourselves, each other, and the futility of the whole stinking mess... I would hesitate to be responsible for "flipping" David completely. But, since you are the most logical, well-balanced, well-adjusted person I've met in this whole thing, I shall trust your judgment and do whatever you suggest to get David moving in one direction or the other... Or, I shall keep silent (and I do mean silent -- with every one I talk to, even about the weather) from now on, if you think that is best.

Believe me, while I was in Maryland, I did my best to avoid the subject of David completely. But, it kept coming up! I really thought that if I convinced Harold that "Sylvia can handle David better than anyone else can" he would get away from the subject. I told him that you and I discussed the situation at length but we did not betray any confidence David had placed in us even though we probably both realized that David had lied completely to both of us.

Because Harold has succeeded in getting a few things from the Archives or Justice Department by suing them, he feels that his is the only way and that we should all stop everything we are doing and contribute to his efforts alone. I have seen the things he has gotten in this way and I am sure much of it is useless...

At the moment, my disappointment with Harold is perhaps the worst I have suffered during the past seven years. From the moment I met Jim, I knew he was insane and never expected anything from him but what I got. I had hope--time and time again--but in my heart I knew what he would eventually do. With Harold it was different. I knew he chased rainbows (almost as far out as Penn does) but I did not think he was an evil person. He speaks of all the very bad things that can happen when one is filled with hate... The many, many little "digs" in his letter to you is so indicative of "hate" that I must conclude that he hates you... Perhaps it is envy because of the success of your book. Perhaps it is because you have stayed aloof from the many petty quarrels among the critics.... your principal "quarrel" being about Jim, and turning out to be correct... the fact that you have believed in David and it looks like you were correct--David does have "something"... I just don't know what has caused it. But, if anyone ever wrote me a letter like that one, I'd probably just die.

Harold and Lil were both precious to me during my visit with them. They are such opposites in character and yet so compatible. She is beyond belief... so calm outwardly... so very intelligent... and so trusting of everything Harold says or does. She is very earthy and "real" while he is so ephemeral and "unreal". They were such a relief from the hectic, troubled atmosphere of my home since February 6th... I came away with such warm feelings of love for them both; grateful for what they had done to relax and calm me down. Now, I am an absolute wreck!

I will not tell Buck or my family about this latest development. Buck has been so grateful for what they did for me and if he knew about this, he would never let me set foot out of the house again, where the investigation is concerned. I tell you this because, should we be talking over the telephone, my conversation will be limited if Buck or Jimmy should be present. If I had known you could talk freely, I'd have called you this morning.

I am enclosing a short letter I wrote to Fred and Marlynn this morning after I wrote you the first letter. (a Xerox copy)

Sylvia, I have never met anyone in my life I loved as instinctively and completely without reservation more than I did you. I love Sue so much but we do not see "eye-to-eye" on so many things. Of course, I love Arch but it is a protective love in some ways... I am just sick with anguish for fear you will feel that I placed you in this terrible position with Harold and Gary. (I don't know why he felt that he had to send Gary a copy of the letter.)

I said I would try to write a more coherent letter. I greatly fear this one is as incoherent as the other one.

Love,

