

November 30, 1970

Dear Sylvia:

I couldn't agree with you more about HW's habit of using us as conveyor belts for his correspondence... However, I can't believe that you are being subjected to the same indignities I am! I am receiving copies of HW's letters to Gary Schoener and Gary's letters to HW talking about me! They are wondering about what has happened to me... why I don't write... etc. Oh, well! As you say, some of it is "rather precious." Our Xerox is broken so I typed you a copy of the letter to Paul.

We are in the process of remodeling our house. Not really remodeling. Sort of cleaning up. We are having a new room, 14 X 16 built at the back so I can move all my books, papers, file cabinets, etc., out there and give the house back to Buck. We are having a shower put in, a new driveway built, the house painted outside and inside and the whole place recarpeted. Also having a carport built. It's a mess right now but should turn out to be rather nice in the final analysis... We looked and looked for houses. Anything we could find that would please both Buck and me was about \$50,000, and I don't feel we should invest that much in a home at our ages. I decided to put about \$10,000 to \$15,000 in this one and have what we both wanted, and have it paid for.

Jimmy is finally out of boot camp. He passed everything. However, because of all his health problems, I think they let him skip most of the tests. He also passed his typing test and is now in Clerk's School. He will be home the 17th of December for a leave. He has to go back the 3rd of January.

I don't know whether I ever told you about Billy's motorcycle accident last year. He was in the hospital about four months. They had to operate on his knee the 13th of November and now they think he will be fine. He is still on crutches but is walking better than he has since the accident last year.

Arch Kimbrough's mother had a severe heart attack last weekend and is in intensive care at Presbyterian Hospital. Arch is quite upset, of course. Kaiser, the man who wrote RFK Must Die, phoned Arch last night and said he had arranged to be in Dallas this coming Wednesday, the 2nd, for about five or six hours and would like to meet us. Arch called and asked me if I would meet the plane in case his mother isn't better. I'm going to try.

Newman just happened to call Arch one night while I was at Arch's house, about two weeks ago. He talked for two hours. He and Arch have been corresponding through Clarkson-Potter for some time now. Arch thinks Newman is great! Although I was very impressed with his book (I know! You weren't!) I was not impressed with him at all over the phone. I don't think I would like him at all! Arch thinks I'm being silly about it. I can't pin it down. But, I don't think I'd like him even if he'd written Accessories After The Fact.

Don't go to any trouble, but if you have the time and opportunity would you make me a copy of Priscilla Johnson's "The Real L--H--O--" I tried to get a copy of the NYT's for November 20th but couldn't.

Both Trent Gough and Paris Flammonde are idiots if they were taken in by Roger Craig. He is the most shallow, egotistical, ignorant, self-centered man I've ever met and these sterling qualities are so very apparent... About a month ago, Roger called me and asked me if I knew a man named Arch Kimbrough. I told him I did. He said he had heard that Arch was Naval Intelligence and his direct superior was a man named Bertrand Fensterwald in Washington. I said, "Damn it! I'm mad at Arch. Here he had me get the Naval Intelligence file for him, not letting me know he was Naval Intelligence. (short pause) Roger, of all the damn foolish things you've ever said to me, that is the craziest. I can't swear about Bud Fensterwald being anything but I can swear about Arch Kimbrough." Then Roger told me he was trying to find a publisher for a book he'd written and these two men were suggested to him by one party but another party had warned him about them. He said he needed someone to read his book and make suggestions. Knowing that I would never get my hands on it, I suggested that he call Arch and ask him to read it. I explained all Arch's virtues, etc. Roger did call Arch and they talked about an hour about plans for getting together about the book. They were to meet the following Tuesday night. On Monday night, Roger called me and said, "Mary, you must have gotten the wrong impression about me. I don't need anyone to read my book. I have about five publishers wanting it. I wanted to have Arch Kimbrough give me a job." I called Arch and said, "Arch, believe me-- I'm not crazy. That's what he said last week when he called." Arch laughed and said, "Why, Mary Elizabeth, he talked to me an hour about my reading the book. Then tonight he called and said I'd gotten the wrong impression. He wanted a job, not someone to read his book." We both decided that on top of everything else, he is crazy.

Sue and I were amazed that Jim Garrison could write a book about the assassination and never mention Clay Shaw.

Have you read Jim Kirkwood's book American Grotesque? It is a very accurate account of the Shaw trial. He omits a few things I thought were important, but, for the most part, it is excellent.

Give Allegra my best and an extra piece of liver.

Love,

