

January 11, 1971  
Monday Night

Dear Sylvia:

I am actually replying to two of your letters (and throwing in odd bits of information to boot)...

They have finally finished the "remodeling" and moved on. They are to give us an estimate for a car-port the end of this week but building that wouldn't affect my interests... I am now sitting at my typewriter in "my room" and thoroughly enjoying the peace and quiet. It is completely sound-proof (can't even hear the planes overhead). Buck is insisting that I put in a phone out here, but I'm holding out just a bit to enjoy the peace and quiet before I do that. The bath looks lovely and Buck is enjoying the shower.

The night before Christmas Eve, David Lifton called me at 10:45 p.m. I had been working very hard at the office and had retired quite early. I was sound asleep and when Buck woke me and said it was David from California, I had no idea what time it was but told him I didn't want to talk to David. Buck insisted because "he is calling from California and has direct-dialed." I took the phone and was still quite drowsy and thought it was morning. I awakened abruptly when David said he was coming to Dallas to see our material. I asked him when and he said, "Mary, if I do come to Dallas, may I see all the material you and Arch have?" I said, "No." He wanted to know why he couldn't and I told him that everyone is quite "put out with him" because he has picked everyone's brains and has contributed nothing but nonsense to anyone else. He wanted to know if you (Sylvia) had contributed to this impression and I told him no, that this feeling had been going on long before I ever met you. I told him that if he would bring his book and let some disinterested party read enough at the first of it and skim through it to be sure it was a "book" and then read a bit at the end, we would let him have everything we had... but not until then. He became highly aggitated and said he couldn't do that. I told him we might as well hang up. He rambled on for two hours. (Buck said he would never again put him on the phone with me, but he will probably never call again.) David said, "When I finish my book, I won't need any of you again. I'll go on to ~~to~~ other phases of my life and won't need you." I said, "Fine, Sylvia Meagher wrote a fine book without any help from any of us. We'll be happy to buy your book in the bookstores just as we did hers." He says all he needs from us is some information on the Dallas police. I told him that it was too bad we couldn't help him but I couldn't determine that he had ever given anyone any help. I added that Sylvia did say that he had given her one piece of information which was valuable and said that Sylvia kept her promise to him and wouldn't divulge what it was. He asked me if Fred was still working on the driver of Kennedy's car. I told him, "Oh, Fred has gone on to more valuable work than that silly thing." The next day David called Fred and really tried to "make up". Wanted to meet with him and discuss Fred's work.

Allan Swartz was in Dallas to make a couple of speeches last week. He came by one night and stayed until 3 a.m. I really enjoyed his visit. Arch came over and stayed with us until midnight. Allan is of the opinion that David has actually finished his book but will never publish it because he will never be satisfied with it and even if he were, he can't give up his "toy". Allan may be right.

I asked David if he has ever let anyone actually read any of his book. He first said "no" then said that he did "trust" one girl-- a librarian, I think he said, who has helped him. He says the girl says that his book is going to be the greatest thing that has ever been published. I told him I'm anxious to read it...

Now, on to the other letter. Arch and I have ordered all the released documents. Bud called us and said he wants to stop our order and have it sent to him instead and we will share the cost. Arch said that would be all right with him -- just so we get all the documents. I think there are over 2,000 pages of the new material. I think Arch said there is one document about Ruby with about 900 pages alone. However, I heard that there are several very important documents released now and also that the C.I.A. is going to release quite a few more of theirs. Sylvia, I will send them all to you as I can copy them. I can probably copy about 200 a day and send them in packages of 200 until I have them all copied and to you. We ordered all the remaining CD's from 1040 through the end (those previously available but not printed) and that order was placed in November and we still don't have it. It seems there was a mix-up about the money we had in our accounts. Someone up there made a mistake. We sent another \$100.00 apiece and they say that would be enough to cover the new material with what we already had up there. But, we still don't even have the early order... We went on and ordered all the newly released material but I suppose Bud stopped that order and will go over and get it in person. We may get the latest released documents before the ones we ordered in November... I don't know. But, please be assured that I will send them to you as soon as we get them.

I worked all day Saturday and Sunday the week after New Years. We had a big closing which should have been completed before the end of the year and we didn't finish it... The Sunday night after the New Year's weekend (the 10th I think), when I got home, Buck and the boys said Harold Weisberg had called collect about a dozen times. It was close to midnight so I didn't return the call but did write to him the next day and explained where I had been. It's the first letter I've written him. I sent him a Christmas card and he answered by saying he was afraid something was wrong because I didn't even put a note on it. I guess I have been acting shabbily toward him... I haven't had another word from him since. I just realized my dates are all wrong... Yesterday was the 10th... It was the 3rd of January when Harold called.

My letter writing has been getting worse and worse since the contractors have been here. All five typewriters were under ~~pile~~ piles of newspapers and magazines. It is just great to have them where I can sit in comfort and work.

Allan Swartz told me I should write to the Voice of America and get the tape recording of Earl Warren in Peru (I think it was Peru). It was an interview and mostly about the work of the Commission. Allan says David has it and thinks it is extremely valuable but won't let anyone else hear it. Have you ever heard it?

I had a call from a book dealer just before ~~Christmas~~ Christmas wanting to know if I had a copy of the paper -- the Dallas Times ~~News~~ Herald -- for the 25th of November, 1963, which had headlines FBI RECEIVED TIP OSWALD WOULD BE KILLED over the Bob Jackson picture. I said I was sure I did have it. He said, "Be sure now. They only printed 3,000 and then took them off the stands. It was one of about four editions for that day." I checked that night and called him back and said I did have it. ~~He~~ He said, "Would you take \$500.00 for it? That is what it's bringing and I can sell it for you." I told him I wasn't interested... Isn't that something? I had Buck or one of the boys practically living at both papers for about a week. I wanted every edition of both papers.

Well, I guess I've rambled on long enough. I owe Fred Newcomb about a dozen letters... Maybe I'll get time before I go to bed to drop him a line and thank him for all the little memos he's been sending lately.

Be sweet and please plan to visit us this coming summer... Sincerely, I do hope you will come to Dallas again this summer. I promise to board Mike so you can keep Alegra with you if you will come and stay with me. And the house is in much better shape, believe me! And maybe we won't have any crises this summer...

Love,

*Mary*

*Give Alegra an extra  
piece of liver  
for me —*