

15 January 1971

Dear Mary,

It was a joy to read your letter of the 11th, especially to learn that your remodeling ordeal is now over and that you are a newly-soundproofed researcher in your own "archives" room.

From the reports of Lifton's calls to you and to Fred Newcomb as well as to me, it is clear that he has entered his "manic" phase and started a telephone jag. I was delighted with your replies to his questions! Masterful. You certainly got some significant admissions out of him. You and Arch and others are to throw open all your papers and findings to him, while he continues to keep his apocryphal "book" top secret, until it is finished and he no longer "needs" any of the critics again. That goes beyond chutzpah into obscenity and derangement. Harold Weisberg (see progress report later in this letter) assures me that Lifton has nothing, anyhow; but whether or not that is so, it is crystal-clear that he will take anything he has into the grave, rather than reveal it, and will come up with an unending stream of reasons why he is not ready to publish or to share his notorious "kernel".

The name Allan Swartz is not familiar to me. Should it be?

Now, about the newly-declassified documents: Your offer to copy them and send them to me in batches of 200 is typical of your generosity and incredible unselfishness. I feel certain there is no one working in this field who would dream of making a comparable offer. But there is no reason for me to have a free ride, I am not pressed for funds, and I cannot accept your offer unless you allow me to split the costs you incur in buying these CD's from the Archives. I estimate your expenditure for the 2000 pages at 10¢ a page at about \$200, of which I would like to pay half. I am therefore sending you my check for \$100 for the copies you will send me. Please send them by printed matter rate, for which I will pay later when the postage costs are available (I will calculate them from the packages of 200 as they arrive), as I won't be able to read them as fast as they would come by first-class mail.

As to Harold Weisberg, I too have re-established "normal" relations with him. From the time of his outrageous letter to me just after Labor Day, I had not written him any direct letter or replied to any letters he sent me, although I did send him copies of my first few letters to Hoch on his sordid melon tests and perhaps other copy material. Harold did not seem to realize that I was behaving very coldly (or perhaps he just didn't want to make an issue of it), and he continued to write from time to time as if nothing was wrong. Last week, I got a letter from him about the newly-declassified documents which I felt I had to answer, and in my reply I took the opportunity to say that I had been offended by his Labor Day letter because it was denunciatory and intimidative. Harold wrote back in a very conciliatory spirit, assuring me that he had not intended at any time to be denunciatory or offensive and acknowledging that he is sometimes irascible and uses unfortunate terms because he is so pressed for time.

Since he was reasonable and conciliatory, I was ready to consider the matter closed. At just about the same time, I happened to go back to re-read CE 2650 --apropos of a copy of a letter Fred Newcomb had sent me, in which he raised the question of Oswald having read a book on the murder of Huey Long. Ironically, as I found, there are still discoveries waiting to be made in the 26 volumes, even after all these years and after so much microscopic study by so many researchers.

As I scanned CE 2650 and got the title of the book on Huey Long that Oswald had taken out of the New Orleans public library, a very startling piece of information leaped off the page and hit me between the eyes. According to this document, Oswald had returned four books to the public library on 10/3/63---days after he left New Orleans for Mexico City! Almost as startling is the fact that, according to my calculations, he had borrowed those four books on 9/23/63 (I base this on the fact that he returned other books on that date), or only two days at most before he intended to leave New Orleans!

Of course I wrote Fred at once giving him this information in detail; on the same day, recalling that Oswald's stay in New Orleans was Harold Weisberg's special subject, I phoned him in the evening and gave him the same information about the 10/3/63 date, and he was very excited about it--apparently it fit in with some of his information and theories. As always happens when I call Harold, I tried to say goodbye after a half-hour and succeeded after an hour and a half. We had a generally good talk and if we agreed to continue to disagree on certain questions, at least it was in a friendly spirit.

I have not heard the tape recording of Earl Warren in Peru but I have a vague recollection that someone sent me either a news clipping of his remarks on the WR or maybe even an excerpt from the transcript of his press conference. I can search it out and send it to you, if you would find it useful. Let me know.

I will also be interested to know what you make of CE 2650 and the seeming anachronism in the date 10/3/63 of the return of the four books. As I said to Fred, it is possible that Oswald mailed the books back, or left them with a friend or a neighbor to return--but what friend or what neighbor???

The best news in a long time is that you are able to write letters again. I was really getting uneasy about the long silences, but of course I do understand why you were unable to write. How is Jimmy Lee? From what Harold said when I spoke to him, he seems to be out of the woods on all counts, for which I rejoice. By the way, I was telling a girl in my office about my visit to Dallas and the lunch we had with Sue Fitch, and I wanted to mention her daughter's eminence in the world of sports but I had a complete blank as to what it is that the daughter excels at--ice skating? archery? I am annoyed with myself for having such a poor memory, so please tell me in your next letter whether she swims, runs, or parachutes.

Allegra sends affection and love,
and so do I,

Many kisses,