

MRS JOSEPH A. FIELD JR  
1115<sup>th</sup> BEVERLY DRIVE  
BEVERLY HILLS CALIFORNIA

Saturday  
9/24/66

Sylvia dear -

At last, I am a harbinger of  
good news - personally, that is.  
Yesterday morning we received  
notification from the draft board  
that Joe has been re-classified  
back into 2S (Student Category)  
until next June! You have been  
a good enough friend to us to  
have, several times, expressed  
your concern about our grievous  
worry and I feel I must inform  
you without further delay, of the  
happy turn in this matter. God!  
Both Joe (sr.) and I feel as  
though 20 years have suddenly  
been added to our lives!

To respond, point by point, to your 2.  
letter of the 20<sup>th</sup>,

1). I deeply appreciate the trouble & time you've taken re the Fonti article in "The Greater Philadelphia". I saw the August "Liberation" critique of Epstein and Rovere and thought it very necessary altho' lamentably, it will not reach much of an audience. A copy of it should accompany every copy of "Inquest"!

2). Unfortunately, from my point of view at least, a warning to Dave often has a reverse from the desired effect! I'm completely in the dark about "the Liebler/Rankin/Reich letters" re missing frames unless you're referring to their communications to you in the past. If so, how did Lane get on to that?

3). I missed the Lane/<sup>Host</sup>Palad telecast which took place here the Friday before I returned from Europe but

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Ray taped <sup>it</sup> yesterday, I made a tape from his. Bill also taped it & since I believe Bill's is clearer than Ray's, I'm going to make a tape from Bill's & will send it to you. In it, Lane does bring up the Thewar-Roper - RFR business in answer to a floor question as to (inevitably!) why haven't the Kennedys become involved - or what is their position - blah... blah... blah...! It's my recollection at the moment, that Lane puts it in the "sent word" context but I may be wrong. I'd have to re-play the tape (which runs about 2 hrs.) to check it & I don't have the time now. Lane first told me about that a year ago <sup>February</sup> when I saw him in N.Y. & at that time he very clearly indicated it was done thru intermediaries via the telephone. If he's changed the implication now,

it would indeed constitute a misrepresentation of what he told me - but, as I say, I haven't actually heard him say that RFK wrote to T-R. & perhaps there is even, now, such a communication - altho' I seriously doubt such a possibility. RFK would put no such thing in writing, in my opinion!

4). As for press clippings, I receive none. Our service was contracted for for the month of August. All the clippings went to Lillian & Ray picked up his & mine from her - so that I do have an album full but have not yet had the time to do any more than file them chronologically in the album. I have read none of them, as yet. (I'm having dreadful teeth troubles & must have drawn-out gum & bone surgery plus extractions & I haven't even felt up to attacking the clippings). I will go thru them this coming week & if there are some that

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are especially important or noteworthy, I'll send copies to you post-haste. I'll also index them for you + for myself. (WHERE do you ever find the time to do all that you do???)

Sunday — Interruption.

Well, Penn Jones + wife arrived at noon yesterday. He has a book distributer, Herb Chapin, who is promoting the sales of "Forgive My Grief" + Chapin + wife met them at the airport. They all came over here subsequently — then, Penn, Bill O.C. + Chapin went over to Pamela Maton's house (practically around the corner from us) to tape a radio interview which will be on local station Thursday. Pamela knows little about the case but is very interested in it, from our point of view, + encourages questions discussion + interviews on her daily show which has a rather wide audience.

(He had Lane on for a long interview). 6.

Afterwards, we all accompanied Penn to KTTV (Ch. 11) for his TV interview on the Louis Lomax show (this show appears every Sunday night & is extremely popular). Penn was on about 20 minutes or so, while he's no dynamo, his complete sincerity & courage is effective. He's the archetype of the small-town crusading editor & the fact that he's from Texas is not without dramatic impact. He isn't as forceful as I'd like to see him be, but I think he does implement the critics' cause and especially when he deals with the peripheral crimes because that is an area into which the others have not delved in any depth & which has, understandably, great shock value, besides being totally new to the outside world!

This afternoon we entertain, modestly, for Penn & his wife. (a cocktail thing followed by a buffet dinner). How I wish you could be here! I haven't asked any

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"outsiders", confining the invitations to critics, researchers & those who are more than passingly interested. We expect (besides the Joneses) Bill O'C., Ronnie & Dave Solomon, Ray & Leta Marcus, Dave Lipton, the Chapins & his "associate" & wife & ~~the~~ 2 friends who have followed the case fervently & have been instrumental in passing various books & articles around.

Entre nous, I asked Dave L. because I didn't want to hurt his feelings but I must confide that I wish I hadn't felt constrained to do so and that I really prefer to have a little to do with him as possible. He is a brain-picker, too & isn't above claiming for his own discoveries ~~things~~ that he has pulled out of other people's brains. Ray has had many unpleasant exchanges with him because of this propensity and is at the point, now, of no return. Please

treat this as a confidence. I have to (8)  
align myself with Ray because Ray is a  
totally honest and honorable person  
whom I respect and trust in every way.  
Dave on the other hand, seems consumed  
with being THE DEFINITIVE AUTHORITY —  
which he isn't, by a wide margin!  
I had to even discuss these more  
shabby aspects of the inter-relationships.  
God knows you've been victimized by  
more than your share of such unpleasant-  
nesses, but I do feel you should know  
that friction exists in that area.  
Poor Lillian! How I wish I could be of  
some help or comfort. I've called +  
written (a note to tell her about Penn  
+ to ask her to come this evening) but  
she just isn't talking to anyone + stays  
from early morning till late at night  
at the hospital. It must be frightfully  
grave — because you know how import-  
ant the case is to her + how, under  
normal circumstances, she leaps at  
any opportunity to discuss it. We've  
all tried to reach her with no success



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and it must be so hideous for her.

I'm so bloody angry at the sabotaging by the K. family that I can't bear it! What in God's name are they trying to protect? — who? — why? Politically, even, there can be no justification for their behavior — so I'm utterly baffled and bitterly frustrated and revolted. I keep trying to convince myself that there must be, underneath the ugly dung heap, a terribly valid reason but I can't really succeed.

Must run now. Pretty soon the Joneses will be at the door.

Maybe my state of "good" news will somehow transmit some of its cheer to you. I pray that it does for I know how dimly depressed you've been. Take good care & bless you for your constancy, your attention & concern.

With much love, Maggie.