

1115^{NO} BEVERLY DRIVE
BEVERLY HILLS CALIFORNIA

30th Sept. '66

Pelvia Dear -

Many thanks for sending the book. I read it in about an hour and have now passed it on to Ray! What is Christopher Short trying to tell us?? Surely he's in our camp & chooses this means to get his message across - but how many people will get the message? Fascinating! I shall now try to capsule the events of this past week for you.

Penn Jones is an endearing sort of man and lingu- larly courageous, as we know. He was interviewed last Saturday afternoon by Pamela Mason. That interview (radio - $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour) was aired yesterday. I taped it & have sent a copy to you. Saturday evening, he did the Lomax TV show which will be shown this Sunday night. I thought he was reasonably effective. Sunday evening we entertained here for the Joneses. I only asked those few who are vitally interested in or have worked on the case + Jones' book distributor + his partner here in L.A. I had tried in vain to contact Lillian - by phone by mail - as had Ray + Bill O'C. so no avail. Very sadly on Sunday night Ellie Jones imparted the news that Lillian's husband had died the previous Tuesday & was already buried! Despite the fact that her total lack of response toward any of us indicated the gravity of the situation, over the days + weeks since my return, I was, nevertheless, profoundly shocked. No one has been able to reach or

contact her. She is temporarily living with a niece in the Z. Valley, I believe; — she's devastated by her grief & has given the word, via her niece, that she wants no cards, flowers, or other expressions of sympathy. So we are all feeling terribly sad for her but can do absolutely nothing about it. Actually, in my opinion, the best thing that could happen would be for her to plunge headlong into the case again — but I guess she isn't quite ready for it yet.

Getting back to Sunday evening, then, Ronnie Solomon & her husband came — Dave Lifson (who really behaves absolutely "gradingly" — held the floor the entire time and generally gave me a pain in the neck!), Bill O'Connell, the book distributor & partner & the advertising man from Pickwick books. The latter gentlemen are strictly commercial & are only interested in "the buck" which may be made from the promotion of Penn's brain-child. Stan. Theinbaum was in town, shaking a speech, & dropped in to see Penn. Ramparts is reportedly going "all out" (for the 6th or 7th time!) in the November issue, basing most of its material on Penn's particular specialty, the peripheral crimes. I'll believe it when I see it! Ray & Letha were not able to come but during the evening Ray phoned to say that Max Lahl is definitely interested in spot-lighting Penn on a future show. Lahl did a monumentally impressive show with Mark Lane just before my return from London. The whole town sat up and reacted very favorably. It made a stunning impact. Both Ray & Bill had taped it and I made a tape for you, from Ray's, the other day but when I played it yesterday, it failed to reproduce satis-

factarily so I'm going to borrow Bill's + make a new one 3.
for you.

Monday, Mort Sahl came over here to meet Penn and to delve more deeply into Penn's, Ray's, Bill's and my knowledge of the case. He's extraordinarily bright and perceptive and even tho' he tends to vent his personal spleen against the Kennedys rather too much (altho' from his point of view I cannot blame him), he is ~~never~~ fervently committed to "the Cause" and is persistent about revealing it as often and as concentratedly as possible before the public. He has developed a considerable following + is at this point, an undeniably influential voice. ~~By the time~~ By the time he left here, I was in an even deeper state of depression than before. He feels that this country has "had it" — he has no hope at all for it — we have fast become a sell-out nation and for all intents + purposes a near-fascist state — and the single most guilty perpetrators are the liberals (he calls them social-democrats). I, unhappily, agree with him and feel total despair.

Interruption — it is now Saturday morning — 4⁵⁵ Oct. In any case, he + Penn + Ray + Bill + I talked for a long time and he ended by taking Penn's book + a few of my panoplies home to study. He wanted to schedule Penn for a taping this Sunday night but inasmuch as Penn had a commitment in Denver, Sahl will postpone it for the following week +, of course, Penn will have to return here for it. In any case, I'll have a tape to send you whenever the show comes off.

Pem is now in San Francisco — thence to Denver — back 4.
to Middleton until he returns here for the 1st show.
Leta tells me Pem's book is at the Hay Co. Stores and
I do know that 4 of our most important independent
bookstores are stocking it, too. P. is already busy on
a second volume.

Sylvia — your letter just came which calls for my ex-
panding this one. Thank you, with all my heart, dear-
for your marvelous enthusiasm about young Joe's
reclassification! We must all latch on to anything
uplifting — for such events are indeed few and far
between these days.

Surprised S. Martin had never even been acquainted
with my name prior to the TMO letter; (not that I
pretend to any recognition, nor have I any basis for
such pretensions!) for I have long since + many times
heard of her. We are such an infinitesimally small
band that I would have thought my name might
be remotely familiar if only via the grape-vine
about the Kennedys, as I wrote you, I feel decidedly
bitter toward them; — I think they have been spurious,
dishonest and have devastatingly sabotaged our
efforts. Reason compels me to believe that there is a
serious & compelling defense for their behavior but
I'll be damned if I can accept such a reasonable
excuse. If it has to do with RFK's political aspirations,
then I must conclude that exposure of the WC and of
the truth could only catapult him into the White
House, so such considerations seem absurd to me; if
someone close to the family is being protected, for what

reasons I can't imagine, then their actions become even
 less defensible and mystifying. "National interest" is a
 farcical defense and cannot possibly stand up — to
 what the hell else can explain their deviousness and
 their refusal to jump into the fire? As Penn said to
 Pamela Mason, in response to that inevitable question:
 "what about the Kennedys?" — "If they (the R's) persist
 in saying only that they have not read the Report, we
 can draw certain conclusions from that, but I hope
 they won't go further and, on record, support the WC's
 conclusions, for ~~the~~ history will eventually prove them
 wrong and the ones upon the widow and on the
 brothers would go down in history, ~~at~~ a despicable
 deception on the American public & on the world, at
 large." How can they dare on the one hand, pretend
 not to have read the WR and/or volumes — and Harches-
der's book, and, on the other hand, imperiously dictate
 to B. Cerf, Bishop, etc., & force ~~Random House~~ Harper
 & Row into making massive deletions of vital
 material, which we have the right ~~to~~ of access? The
 whole posture is contemptible, whatever the reasons,
 because it is so obviously devious and fraudulent.
 And how can Mrs. K.'s nearly psychotic bitterness
 (according to your letter) toward LBJ for his role in
 virtually forcing JFK to Dallas not lead her to, at
 least, suspect his motives and, therefore, read the WC's
 release of the evidence, ^{to} delve further to find out why
 and, thus, ultimately end up in our camp? And if
 she had read the material (or had had someone else
 attempt it for her), ~~at~~ how can she possibly be instrumental
 in further covering up the ugly truth? (This goes for RFK +

Ted, as well). I find it inexcusable, inexplicable & thoroughly scandalous.

As for D. Macdonald, moderator or no, he, too, incites my total contempt. I'm incapable of comprehending such utter dishonesty and shilly-shallying. He knows God-damned well what the score is! He obviously is too egotistical to admit that he was wrong (Bquire: March 1965), so he mollifies his conscience by taking a middle course as a moderator! Ugh! how sickening! I wish I could have been around to reinforce your great courage for the debate with Griffin, Liebler, Macd. but, actually, those were fleeting & understandable jitters. I know you & thus feel positive that you delivered magnificently. Incidentally, although I'm late with this thought, I hope you gave Griffin a good going around for his unspeakable conduct with Kenneth Croy. He (Croy) had a witness to the Tippit murder — not Markham, & not Aquilla Clemmons — whose name he chose not to record, etc., but about whom Croy showed not the slightest interest (nor did ^{Griffin} exercise any surprise or attention toward Croy's incredible negligence). I just hope you were able to bring that testimony of Croy's to the fore and that you properly revealed Griffin for the outrageous manner in which he conducted that interview.

My God, Sylvia! Your revelations about the dreadful situation of your nieces — plus of Label's decline were alarming enough — and seemed cruelly, far more than burdensome than anyone, much less you, should have had to cope with. But this latest blow from Bronni is, in many ways, even more shattering! I was aghast

as I followed the unbelievable outpouring of your heart! 7.
I must admit that, from your account & from your
willingness to remedy the situation as well as from Vince's
loyal & valiant efforts, I am somewhat frightened by
A's reaction — insofar as your trip to A's house with
Vince is concerned. He comes off as totally implacable,
irrational and unstable! Indeed, we all have our
areas of instability in this affair — and justifiably
so — but his performance toward you leaves me
limp, uncomprehending & quite disturbed. And to
think that he very nearly caused you to withdraw —
to abandon what has become your life's blood and
what is for the rest of us — (and the public, as well —
altho' they do not yet know it) one of the major
contributions in the entire case, boggles my very being.
Nothing — no one — must ever do this to you, Sylvia —
and I say that, not only selfishly, but for your own
well-being and mental strength as well.

Dave phoned yesterday & of his own volition told
me about the Liebler/Rankin/Redlich letters. He's such
a 3rd rate person, though! He's always sniffing around
for "anything big happening" & he's totally absorbed
with his own selfish motives. He claims every discovery
(or nearly every one of consequence) & had the temerity
to tell me that he discovered the splicing of frames
207 and 212 — and now he's worried that he may
have antagonized Liebler!! Quel numéro! (I tell you
about the call simply to allay any qualms you may
have had over discussing the letters with me). Actually,

everyone else knows of the letters (Ray, Bill, William, etc.)⁸ because, undoubtedly, have told them — so there was absolutely no valid reason why I should not have been in on them, too!

Like a bloody idiot, I did send for the Avant Garde document of insanity & could kick myself around the block for it. Smith does excellent work in many areas & then dies it all together with a twine of madness — the vagaries of a "way out" mentality. It is another nail in our coffin, I fear — for like Geo. Thompson's concoction, it can only serve to drive responsible people (us, of course!) into the dent of all of the books & nuts! Fortunately, I suspect the circulation will be limited!

I have had minimal contact w. Weisberg. I phoned him after the Mike Wallace interview to congratulate him mostly because, at that time, I was so appalled at Epstein's squirming performance that Weisberg seemed like the most articulate & courageous of men! He has written a lengthy letter or two which I haven't answered (1. because it was for all of us "Californians" + 2. because it came at I was about to depart for France) but Bill seems to be in rather frequent contact with him which, I choose to feel, takes care of my involvement.

Let me know about the "Fact" interview and when it will appear.

Don't worry about Hannah. She is very understanding & I suspect, along with her great admiration for

a lot of you, wants in her naive, unsophisticated way
do offer help (altho' she knows virtually nothing about
the case; have just sent her Lane's book & a quick course)
to offer encouragement & finally, to keep in touch.

I must away, now - dear friend. Keep up your
courage & morale. We are all 1000% behind you
in your debt - and I have the most profound
respect & admiration for your fierce & uncompromising
honesty & selflessness as well as for your excellent
mind and deep sensitivity.

If I don't write again soon, it will only be
because of my god-damned gangs which I shall
now have to treat in San Francisco where I
will most likely have to make a series of 1 or
2 day excursions over several weeks until the
dreary business is done with. (I've given up on
the Bev. Hills charlatans!).

Much love,
Maggie

Penn is honorable & appealing. (He, too, loves the
Kennedys, despite M. Pahl!)

Ray & Bill are bulwarks & both are thoroughly
good, self-less & honorable, too! Thank God!
(They are also intelligent & mature) - (over)