

Friday night.

Dearest Sylvia -

I'm horribly ashamed to have failed you by not having written last night as promised. I simply wasn't able to, dear - altho' I wanted to, desperately, because I know only too well what it's like to be tantalized, to have one's curiosity churned to the zenith, to await the all important words and then to be disappointed. My excuse is a sorry one - I was under a particular strain by the events on both coasts - and I, also, wasn't feeling capable of doing justice to the subject in writing, physically. So much for that - except that I profoundly regret ever letting you down, even in the least (and this subject hardly fits that category). Anyway, here we go:

Bill phoned at 7 yesterday morning. He had received the call - was electrified (this is our 1st exposure in this strange, mystifying niveau) - had a tape and wanted me to hear it instantly! I wanted to, of course - but I did have a 10 o'clock appointment & we both figured that by the time each of us dressed & breakfasted, & he made the trip over the canyon, our time would be too limited. He, therefore, arranged to pick me up & we came back here and ~~we~~ rolled the tape. This person lives here, has a business (a type of service) which he operates from his residence. We shall call him "D" (add another letter to our expanding alphabet!). He has been all things to all ^{things} factions - and proclaims his right-wing affiliations.



MRS JOSEPH A. FIELD JR
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2:
He talks of his experience with planes and weapons. He concentrated on the 3 boys who visited the Jura lady! He knows them well. He implicated the obvious right-wing names — but he added a name, heretofore unknown to us, beginning with "G" of South of Border origin. He claims that, altho' he agrees with the JBS in most of what they represent, he couldn't go along with the KKK motif — that he's having an attack of conscience. (!!!) The tape is actually quite lengthy. He says many things which, frankly, at the moment, escape me — but I believe I've now given you the quintessence of his particular message. He wanted no remuneration. I sat back for a few minutes and, bearing in mind, the recent epidemic of such tales coming your way — and your deeply-felt and equally deeply appreciated words of caution, I tried to evaluate what he had said. (He, of course, doesn't know that he was taped). My feeling was — in contrast to my reaction to the Houston Calls — that it's a) a fake or b) a trap. In other words, it didn't strike me as being valid. Other than the one new name, which may or may not mean something, he revealed nothing that any researcher hasn't become familiar with and his political background seemed totally unconvincing and without logic or pattern. He likened himself to LHO with respect to "informing" — but, to me, he wasn't especially convincing and he seemed to be taking unnecessary risks with total strangers. I could, of course, be way off the beam — absolutely wrong — and I'm perfectly aware of

the fact - but something just didn't jell for me, at least. 3.
Bill is more on the fence, I think, than I am. He has doubts, of course - but perhaps not such strong ones as are mine.

Last night Bill played the tape for Ray. Then the 3 of us talked about it and ended up by feeling baffled - suspecting a fluke - and yet knowing that we couldn't, in any case, turn our backs on it. What to do? We haven't the most minute facility for checking out such a story or such a person. Ray thought of the only possible solution to our dilemma - Bill Turner of Ramparts. We decided to act. I phoned Bill, spoke to him twice today, in fact - and, without revealing anything of a specific nature, I urged to him to come down as soon as possible to investigate the matter or, at least to hear what we have. He can be here in an hour & if need be, we would finance the round-trip flight jointly. (I had him phone me at someone else's home!) He would meet him at the airport, play the tape for him & then he could judge whether or not to pursue it further &, if so, how to go about it. Having been a Govt. investigator for 10 years, he should know! He agreed to call me early next week and to see what he could arrange about getting here. He told me that Ramparts, too, have been receiving numerous such "leads" and tales - and it is his understanding that the Justice Dept. (!) has a plethora of such "tips", etc. which it is in the process of tracking down (!). I

think he mentioned that Burt Griffin was the one who told ^{4.}
him that. (! again). So the case rests EXCEPT —
that I just talked to Bill O.C. & ^(D) "D" had just called him
again! This time he indicated that he was anxious to
have us investigate him with a view to verifying the
validity of his story and of his involvement! ~~But~~ Bill
told me that he (Bill) was extremely guarded and non-
committal — and, at that point, we both began to
laugh uproariously — for if there were ever 2 greater
bakes-in-the-woods for this sort of high-powered,
cloak & dagger business than he and me, we couldn't
imagine any! It's a kind of near-hysteria occasioned
by the possibility that we just might have the very
villains in our hands. It's really inconceivable,
unbearable and possible!

I think that your (b) proposition is a most astute one.
If R's story, for example, lasted for 3 hours and was
so cleverly executed as it appears to have been, then
it doesn't seem ~~likely~~ ^{plausible} to assume that it amounts, merely,
to "innocent embroidery." I tend to agree with you
that there is some sort of link. Possibly our Mr. D is, too.
Oh, I nearly forgot that in D's conversation with Bill
an hour or so ago (the 2nd of the two calls), he mentioned
the Miami-Police-tape story which broke last night.
(We think it's a very important news story, as I'm sure
you do!) He seemed to be making the link with it and
his own tale. That, too, would be an obvious ploy for
someone of his ilk — but, then again, it might have some

substantial connection.

Bill Turner, incidently, commented on how strange it is that during this present hiatus in the progress of the case there should be such a sudden and patterned rash of these "leads"!

Your day in Phila. was absolutely unbelievable. What a drama — and what a strain for you. How wonderful that you had Arnoni by your side! Yes, all of these events are attuning the most mystifying, frightening and unreal proportions!

All of us are so grateful for your detailed and cheering account of the Lane/Nizer, Jenner, Sobey encounter. What excellent news! I immediately called Mort Sahl because I knew it would delight him and God knows he needs some cheer — even more than we do. He has just lost 10 sponsors, his radio + TV stations are flooded with hate-campaign letters and I'm afraid his ~~good~~ days of trying to bring some light into the darkness are numbered. He was, of course, very pleased. Steve Burton was terribly pleased about having received a letter from you. I read him just that part of your today's letter which dealt with the Lane/Nizer business and I had to agree with him when he commented on what he feels is a noticeable change for the good in Lane. He believes that Lane has become more secure, less harried and more considerate, outward-going and mellow. He says he noticed it during Lane's recent visit here as contrasted to his kind of "lone wolf", remote personality of the past. Certainly your

account of his behavior toward you and his very complimentary allusion, on TV, so all of us bears this out. -6.

And now I must away but I promise to keep you posted as quickly as I can & I know you'll do likewise for us. I'm busy working up my panoplies so that I can get them ready to take to N.Y. with me, I hope by the end of the month.

I'm getting the Lewis/Tribune Jan. 21st "ad" Xeroxed for you, as well as Shirley Martin's reply. She was terribly funny about Lewis' visit to her. Her 1st question was "do you have dogs" whereupon she answered "Yes, 11"!!!)

Take very good care, wonderful Sylvia.

Much love from Joe, Pansie, Annie, Ruby, Bronco
Ray, Bill and most of all,
Maggie.