

1115ND BEVERLY DRIVE
BEVERLY HILLS CALIFORNIA
September 7, 1967

Dear Sylvia,

At this point it seems futile to even consider the question of Harold. Of course he is right on his evidence and he is indeed a fine person but he has become increasingly wild and I don't think there is anything any of us can do to make him see the harm that he is doing to himself. It is a most lamentable situation.

As far as the Lane incident is concerned you are indeed mistaken in your assumption that I agree with Lane or that I disagree with you. You were not wrong, in my opinion, for he didn't mention The Guardian himself. As far as the letter of July 27th which you never received is concerned, I haven't the least idea of what really happened and, while I tend to think he was mistaken about it, not being directly involved, I cannot say conclusively that he didn't mail it. I don't think he was justified in attacking you. From his point of view, however, he too feels that you have attacked him. The net result of this whole unpleasant situation is that another wedge has been driven into the wall of critics and it is that which I deplore in particular. I feel disinclined, at this point, to say you're right and he's wrong because I am far more concerned with the growing schisms that keep cropping up among the small band of us and it was this feeling, and not my agreement with Lane that I was trying to communicate to you in my call on Saturday. There is no question that Lane has erred many times in certain incidents but, since you have said that you would welcome my frank comments, it is my feeling that he has always been a particular anathema to you. I, on the other hand, have always tended to overlook some of his weaker points because of my appreciation of the enormous over-all contribution he has made in the exposure of the fraud. I don't want to dwell on this subject any further. I merely want to add that it is the situation itself which troubles me more than whatever the underlying causes may have been. My only comment on the Popkin story in The New York Review is that I find it extremely gratifying. I have read your review of it with interest but I, for one, am delighted that someone of merit has finally seen fit to write a pro-Garrison story—for I am overwhelmed, at this point, by the quantity and the vituperative quality of the anti-Garrison stories, TV programs, etc. Before we leave Mr. Garrison for the day, I would like to re-state my position to you on that subject just for the record: I do not know what evidence he has, ~~no~~ does anyone else except Mr. Garrison. Despite all of

the rumors, that this or that person has had access to his complete information, it is my opinion that no one has seen it all. I have always said that mine was a policy of wait and see. It still is. I believe that he should be allowed to bring Clay Shaw to trial and to develop his case, whatever it may be, as best he can. I am not backtracking in any sense when I say that the outcome is uncertain. I have never maintained that he has "solved the case." I frankly do not know but I am nevertheless satisfied in my own mind a) that his intentions are good and b) that he certainly does have some evidence of importance to reveal to the world. If he has no case it will be tragic, for him especially, but it will not be a fatal blow to the critics. I cannot see, however, how, having no case and persisting to the point of taking Mr. Shaw into court can possibly benefit him. He has made some errors but he is not a knave or a fool. This has been my position from the beginning and it is my position now. I think he has a case and I am willing to give him a chance to prove it.

Bill O'Connell, as of a few weeks ago, did not think he would be able to get to New Orleans for the trial and has arranged, therefore, for me to go in his place as a representative for KPFK of the Pacifica Foundation. As soon as the trial date is set, therefore, I shall be on my way. Steve Burton is also going as a representative of the college presses of the nation.

Your news about Susan is most heartwarming and I know how happy both you and she must be. Please give her my warm regards and good wishes. Have you met Mr. Right yet?

Annie is quite herself again and sends her love to you. She was touched that you asked for her. Mary Solak is in Europe, another happy tidings.

Simsie returned from her 6-week course at Santa Cruz University and is being very busy with her duties and responsibilities as Student Body President for the coming school year. She's such a constant sunshine in our lives that I don't know how I'm going to face next year without her even though I've been trying to prepare myself since she was about 12, I guess. Young Joe has been visiting friends in Europe and returns tomorrow night. So, for a brief moment in time, we'll be together again under the same roof. Ray and Letha came over today with 2 of their children and 2 cousins. They both look very well but I'm not exactly objective because they would look that way to me in any case. I've missed them a great deal and it's wonderful having them back again.

I think I will beg off on the story of the 'phone and the graduate student for this round at least. I know it's a shoddy thing to do to you but it's kind of long and quite dreary and, somehow, not really very important in the scheme of things.

In any case, I'm just not up to a full account of the tale at the moment. Suffice it to say that the graduate student has been finding out bits and pieces of information to which he cannot conceivably have any known access. He has disclosed knowledge of things he would have no way of knowing - and I have checked this through very thoroughly - unless he has some means of 'phone detection or there is a plant in our midst of whom I'm totally unaware. Although I have absolutely nothing to do with him and never discuss him with anyone, he is constantly making vicious attacks upon me. He is also paranoiacally obsessed about my book and its fate, its title, etc., etc. I am, therefore, determined that he know absolutely nothing about it. As far as I'm concerned, even if he had the key to the entire case, he has no interest for me, whatsoever; I only wish the feeling were mutual.

Adios for now. Don't work too hard.

Love,

Maggie

P.S. Have you seen the Garrison interview in the October PLAYBOY by Eric Norden?