

Monday 8.30 am 9. August 1965

Dear Maggie,

Just found the special delivery envelope outside my door...I don't know how long it has lain there, as I did not even go out to the incinerator yesterday in my transport of indexing...I am in the "r"s but fear I must reconcile myself to not completing the index in the next seven days, as three will be used for the Miami trip.

I'm glad to return the excerpt from LIFE as I am sure I have that issue, though I am not taking the time now to look. I'm very glad you asked about "Mississippi Autopsy," forcing me to check the facts and change my footnote (text, rather—in an earlier draft it was a footnote). I had heard Dr. Spain introduced on several radio discussions as the author of "Mississippi Autopsy" and assumed it was a book. I find, however, that it is an article in a special issue of Ramparts published about six months after the bodies of Andrew Goodman, Michael Schwerner, and James Chaney were found. As you know Ramparts is based in California and you could probably obtain a copy without great difficulty. I have one, and have scanned Spain's article, but the issue is in the huge pile of periodicals I have been putting aside unread since the R&E volumes arrived last Thanksgiving, for pure lack of time to read them.

Again, I thank you warmly for your generous and encouraging comments on my MS, or rather on the parts you have been good enough to return so promptly. I am not sending you further sections at this moment because of the press of time before boarding the plane. Is there any special area that would interest you, when I next send some excerpts? You say that I should submit it for a PhD; but, Maggie, I don't even have a BA or any other degree, as I attended college at night, while starting on the job I still hold (in its earlier and far less specialized form), and dropped out—partly because of the demands of daytime work and partly because of an infatuation with my English instructor, whom I subsequently married and divorced (he is no longer alive, thanks to the alcoholism which forced me to leave him—a tragedy, as he was a most talented and admirable person in every way, and a poet, but could not resist the addiction and finally stopped trying). I have so little knowledge of the academic world that I am chagrined; but I assume that I could not earn a doctorate without the lesser degrees?

About the SS agent reported shot, you will find a reference to that also in CE 1974 (p 936 of the volume), as well as in numerous UPI stories of 11/22 or 11/23. I may deal with that curious "rumor" (and it may be nothing more) in some other section, to be written later, but for the moment I don't want to complicate the reasoning in the grassy-knoll-section by including that or the Oswald encounter with an SS agent looking for a telephone. "SS" is of course a most distasteful abbreviation and, as you say, sometimes seems prophetic—although the Secret Service thus far is the least sinister of the federal agencies involved. Kellerman, bless his heart, is so

bereft of subtlety; and Mike Howard, though somewhat sinister, does not cover his tracks. It is the other agencies, with less portentous initials, which chill the blood—the FBI, with its paranoic and untouchable power, and the CIA which countermanded possible orders from JFK to call back the invasion force en route to the Bay of Pigs (which I learned from a review in the Saturday Review of a book called, I believe, Bay of Pigs by someone named, if memory does not mislead me, Johnson).

I'm much pleased by your interest, and David Lifton's, in acquiring my book and/or my index. I am afraid it will be a longish time before I see either in print. However, once the index is completed and copyrighted, I will be glad to provide you with a Xerox copy at cost, so that you can start using it without waiting, if it will be of help in your work.

I had noted the "Guns and Ammunition" ad for the Carcano (it was much-advertised apparently during 1963) and have classified it with the anonymous tips which almost flowed in 11/22-11/23 (see also 7H 223-224; CE 2074 and 2145; and Kantor Exhibit 3, 20E p 376). Re: "David Lee Oswald—son—American" I would infer that Oswald was hoping, before the birth of June as before Rachel's birth in 1963, for a son (see Robert Oswald's testimony in LH on his visit with LHO in the Dallas jail on 11/23/63 in which LHO said that he had wanted a son but that (Rachel) was "the way things went."). Re: the Delta passenger list showing the name "Oswald" twice (CE 3075) the covering memorandum indicates that it is the list for the flight on 6-14-62, when LHO and Marina (with June) flew NY-Dallas en route from the USSR. But there are still a plentitude of other blatant misrepresentations and falsehood, and even without this passenger list, we are in fine supply.

Thank you for offering to return the notes on my visit to the Archives; that was thoughtful indeed, and characteristic of you, Maggie; but thanks, do keep them, as we were able to photocopy a set for Salandria. I subsequently offered him the loan of the original notes, but he was satisfied with the photocopy. He is himself now at the Archives, as I write this, armed with a dictaphone on which he will dictate his observations. He has promised me a copy when his notes are transcribed; I will of course send you a copy also, if what I received can be thermofaxed when I am back at the office. By the way, I had a brief telephone conversation with him on Saturday, and re: Shirley Martin, he had just had a letter from her, apparently following on his telling her in some detail about his visit to me. She apparently said something to the effect that she can now "retire" from the case, leaving it to me and others to carry on. But Salandria assures me it is only a passing mood; it has happened before and she has bounced back into the fray. Her episodes of despondency may result from her relative isolation and solitude, living as she does in a small suburb of Oklahoma City. No doubt Salandria's 2-week visit will reinvigorate Mrs. Martin. He also said that I would probably hear from her directly, as a result of his account of his visit here.

In closing, and apropos of my letter of Saturday 7 August (on Mark Lane), last night I tuned in to one of the two all-night-talkathons we have in New York —Randi, on WOR (who once wired me to contact him to discuss my possible participation in a panel he was then scheduling on the WR; but who cancelled the program, apparently under instructions from management). Last night was a replay of the tape of a discussion held a few months ago, on the Free Press; during the program, the question came up of press coverage of the assassination and aftermath. Randi used the opportunity to "apologize" to the audience for two programs he had presented; while he did not name the main panelist, it appears that he had in mind Mark Lane (I knew that he had been on the Randi program, once in a half-hour "coffee break" pre-recording and once I believe on the full 5-hour stint). Randi (a rather irritating but well-meaning person tending to sanctimony and occasional banality but far less obnoxious than his NBC competitor and predecessor, Long John) "apologized" for having given a platform to someone who, upon Randi's checking into his assertions and allegations, had indulged in what Randi considered a shocking series of half-truths, exaggerations, and distortions, and had virtually discredited himself as a responsible spokesman against the WR. Of course I am not absolutely certain that he was referring to Mark Lane; but it seems to me that he must have meant Lane, as I know of no other anti-WR personality who has been on the Randi show.

Much affection and many thanks,

Hastily,

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 Secretary-General of the OAS  
 José A. MORA

Accept, Sir, etc.

Santiago ORTIZ  
 Director of OAS Secretariat Services  
 in the Dominican Republic"

"Accept, Sir, etc.

"The Commission today received forty-eight persons who submitted complaints concerning violations of human rights.