

1115th BEVERLY DRIVE
BEVERLY HILLS CALIFORNIA

Friday

Sylvia dear -

Once again this is long overdue - but much has been transpiring - and I know you'll understand when I explain.

To begin with, you and I are so caught up in this damned thing that we never even mention personal concerns and that is as it should be for the most part, I guess, except that immediately after my return, my husband imparted news to me so shattering and so completely unexpected that I was badly shaken and have only now regained my equilibrium. He told me that about the 3rd week in October young Joe (our son whom you met) had been classified 'A' by his local draft board. I wonder if you have an idea of what that signified for me - for both of us. In the first place, I am categorically & by nature, temperament & mentality opposed to war, violence and other forms of human savagery. I will concede that there ~~are~~ ^{have been} perhaps justifiable circumstances - actually, only one - and that is when one is attacked & must defend - but in the nuclear age, all forms of war for any reason are unthinkable & I'm appalled at some of the people I once thought reasonable, sane, who cannot stop thinking at

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they did before we were on the brink of total annihilation.
The world has drastically changed since the advent of the
bomb but people's thinking, for the most part, has not.
Secondly, if there ever was a war that has no excuse
whatever for ~~war~~ having commenced, — much less being
escalated — it is the one in So. Vietnam — and ~~if~~ even
if we hadn't been fortunate enough to have a healthy,
highly intelligent, ~~exceedingly~~ decent young man (with a
considerable amount of value and talent to contribute)
for a son, I would not feel one iota less militant (ironic
word!) in my opposition. For, I'm sure you will agree that
this war is an aggressive, totally immoral, and shameful
means of placating the Pentagon (+ all its appendages) and
the death merchants and our self-righteous, hypocrisy
in pretending that we are "rescuing" the South Vietnamese
people from the evils of communism is one of our more
unconscionable postures. When we bomb, burn, pillage &
use napalm & God only knows what other horrors —
and when we wreak untold havoc on defenseless old men,
women & children, who have never lifted a finger to harm
us, our tragedy is monumental enough without compound-
ing further by lies, chicanery and deception.
There's no need to belabor this discourse — it has all
been written and said and thank God protested by those
of us who are ~~not~~ in despair over such a plight. So that
when the very real and hideous possibility confronted
us that our just-turned-19 year old son, who is riding
on a special cloud to his first term in a great university
could very well be catapulted into the fierce battle
over a nameless cause, — and we could do nothing to

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prevent such a catastrophe, I went into a quite black decline. I wrote him and assured him that he would not be considered disloyal or unpatriotic, in our eyes, were he to consider changing nationality — or taking the consequences of refusing to go on moral grounds — and that, quite to the contrary, it is my feeling that it is more courageous & patriotic (ugh! that's a word that ~~harkles~~) to refuse to participate, than to allow oneself to be swept along in the terrible tide. In any case, for the moment our fears have been allayed, for just two days ago, the Board saw fit to reclassify Joe into 2-S (Student category) — and my spirits have climbed back to their customary level!

My next news is that the combination of Buchanan's & my efforts are going to be in the Nov. 23rd issue of Paris-Match!! I am, of course, delighted — but I'm also perturbed & somewhat apprehensive; delighted for obvious reasons — perturbed because whatever it was that Buchanan sent me to London (& which I didn't receive) was returned to him and I have had not one word from him since leaving Paris. The only way that I was able to find out the above information is through my brother in Paris. I had written Fred (brother) about the lost London letter & had asked him to phone B. unimmediately & get all the news from him — if there was anything actually developing in our favor. Fred's letter came Wednesday & I quote him verbatim: "Reached him this morning — he said: ① Paris-Match is going to publish a condensation of the 3 articles he wrote (Buchanan, that is) in this issue of Nov. 23rd, with no hypotheses & with a sequence of quotes

from above articles. He feels that for a magazine that was the first to publicly accept the WR (?) this is a big step forward. He thinks they are reluctant to go out on a limb against the Johnson Administration. (which B. does in the 1st draft of the 1st article that I saw). The article will emphasize the photos of the smoke & will use your quotes from the 26 volumes & show the rifle pictures & the testimony of J. E. Hoover that the rifle was capable of producing smoke but will contain none of Liffon's speculations as to who might have been behind the wall. — In general, he thinks that with P.-M. this is the maximum to hope for at this time.

2) - He said he is now engaged in selling the world rights, which he withheld from P.-M. & claims as 99% certain:

- A. "Tempo" - Italy
- B. "Triunfo" - Spain & a damned good probability with "Der Spiegel" in Ft.
- C. "Guardian" - Manchester, Eng.

3) - He wd like the word back as fast as possible as to who controls the NIX photos. . . .

To continue with the examination of my feelings, I'm apprehensive - wish I had known that P.-M. would publish the stuff for I would have stayed, if only to insure the complete adherence to fact & precision of quotations, etc. Knowing that neither B. nor the P.-M. people have possession of the volumes or have even seen them, I'm so fearful that they may make unnecessary errors, blunders, etc. & that would be catastrophic for people may just be beginning to awaken & become receptive & inexcusable & careless neglect of accuracy would let us all back again!

* NOT Testimony; it's a letter to the Commission as you know, & I hope he isn't letting them call it TESTIMONY!!

I wrote B. immediately, spec.-del., etc., & cautioned him ⁵
about needless speculation & disregard for accuracy but
my letter can't help but arrive after they've gone to
press. I made the same admonishments to him when I
was there - but no one is there to check him out on
the matter of exact page, volume, etc. & I can only pray
that some horrible gaffe isn't committed. I'm really
bleeched at him for not having sent me one word in all
this time, about having to get the info' second-hand
from Fred; after all Dave & you & Ray & Salandria & Ted-
man & I are all contributors to his article, in a sense!
Anyway, I simply have to be glad that something got through &
hope it will be effective & not disastrous for us!

Let me tell you about Epstein! I was, of course, horrified
by his incredible note to you - but before it ever came (&
that was today) I have had second thoughts about him, I
must confess - & Ray & I have both discussed this matter.
Firstly, I've always found it somewhat incomprehensible that
anyone who has become as deeply involved in the case as
he has, & has learned what he has about the Pandora's box
complexion could remain such a "Cool Cat" about his know-
ledge. It's entirely possible that being a phlegmatic individual
he isn't given to emotional manifestations - but to be quite
as detached and uncommitted as he appears to be is
puzzling at best. Then, there is the matter of his friendship
w. Jones Harris. From what you & Dave have told me he, too, is
enigmatic & non-committal. (How in God's name can anyone be
less than outraged & indignant, after uncovering what they have)
Added to Harris' strange attitude is the very ominous information
imparted by you ~~about~~ (in your letter of 11/13) that Harris is "a

friend" of FBI informer Harvey Matusow. This would not only
cause me to regard Harris "with some reserve" as you put it,
but makes me downright uneasy & suspicious. After all,
I've implied that Liebler gave evidence of having known
about our meeting — & even tho' Dave may well be guilty
of misunderstanding or misinterpretation, I begin to believe
that we can account for Liebler's knowing about it thru
either of the 2 gentlemen (1 of whom was present & the other of whom
was supposed to have been). The Matusow business is really
most untimely & alarming. On top of all of this, comes
Opstein's shocking request thru Harris, that you not men-
tion him in the broadcast — & the final blow was that
unspeakably unbelievable letter to you! I don't like it at all!

My Cousin Hannah, whom you met & about whom you said
such complimentary things heard the broadcast & was thrilled
but silly ~~goose~~ talked about the proficiency of one Sylvia
Harr, not realizing it was you! The main direction of her
comment was toward the limited scope ^{to which} the panel was obliged
to confine itself — she, having heard you & me, felt knowledgeable
enough to wish that more would have been revealed! But she,
nevertheless, was generous in praise of what transpired.

I can't get over the Robt. Allen - Paul Scott column on the
reconvening of the WC AND the MacGeo. Bundy business!!
It's completely without logic of any sort! You realize, I'm
sure that "8,250 complete sets" of the volumes represents upwards
of \$560,000.00! (over 1/2 a million dollars). Where did Bundy
get the dough from — and why — & what is he really going
to do with them — burn them? Few things have aroused my
curiosity more than that most unfathomable column!

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Fox's book* is selling very well. My local bookstore hasn't been able to meet the demand & a TV guy in San Francisco told Ray that it's selling like mad up there — the reaction is one of great uneasiness on the part of whoever reads it — & it is already in its 3rd printing (after only 2½ weeks of being published). Effective as his credentials & the endorsement are, I can't help wishing it were more powerful — more inclusive — more positive — more informative — but I'm damned grateful for it, as is.

I've run out of breath & manual manoeuvrability. Thank you ten thousand times for all the relevant & important enlightening communique's. Each time I receive something, I spread the word to Ray, to Dave, to Lillian — so we keep one another in business, thanks to you.

Stay well and strong & keep the channels swinging!

Love,

Maggie.

* I have already purchased 30+ copies all of which I've mailed away or distributed.

Wanda: The more I think about it, the more unstrung I become that Buchanan didn't, at the very least, submit a completed draft of the P.-M. article so that I could have checked it out for errors, if nothing else — before it went to press!