

1115th BEVERLY DRIVE
BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA

Wed. 1st Dec.

Dear Sylvia —

It seems that every other day there is reason to thank you for one gesture or another of thoughtfulness on your part. So a collective kind of thanks from Dave, Ray, William and me for keeping ^{us} so closely in tune with every new development.

Now to some of our news, such as it is:

Dave is off to the races and has taken a positive position as far as Buchanan is concerned. He now has an attorney, an agent (one Bertha Klausen or Clausen - sp.?? - in N.Y. who is Foster's agent). They have advised him not to allow his contributions and material to be "pirated" or used by B. or anyone else — that no one is to "screw up rights" use photos enlarged and pin-pointed by Dave, etc., etc., and that he should get whatever copyrights he may be entitled to, & whatever monetary recompense may be due him. I suppose he has a point and I'm not setting myself up as a critic, — he has, of course, gone to considerable expense — (who hasn't?) & is not self-supporting — but, nonetheless, I cannot bring myself to that point. Last night he told me that he thought my compilation extremely valuable as, among other things, it could serve as a short-cut to the volumes for those who would like to have a modicum of exposure but couldn't or wouldn't purchase them — that, therefore, he felt it ^{to be} incumbent upon me to publish (how or where??) and

Then he proceeded to inform me that I should be ware of ^{2.} the "pirating" of my stuff! Evidently, his lawyer put that bee into his bonnet. Dave's feeling is that Buchanan, being in total possession of my 8" x 10" panoramas, would have, almost certainly, had them photographed by now - before having to return them to me - and thus could sell parts of them and all of this might result in a kind of international boot-legging operation. - with the result that, should I wish to publish, the value of my work would be considerably diminished - plus the fact that unscrupulous types could easily misquote & generally "botch up" passages of testimony etc.). I suppose that there, too, he has a point - and he urged me to send B. an immediate cable, in which I would forbid the use, sale, etc. of my material without my knowledge & consent. But, somehow, I cannot bring myself to act upon that suggestion. I don't suppose I have any reason to trust Buchanan - yet, I tend to trust until I see cause for not doing so - i.e. my promise is innocent until -----!

Still on the subject of Dave - he had a long session yesterday with Lieber. He says he's typing up notes & will distribute them among us but the gist was something like this (I took brief notes as Dave recounted their conversation together):

- On the "pull-of-smoke" photo's L. said he thinks they will be in a book some day! (whatever that means!)
- "We've always known we couldn't exclude the possibility of other usatins" (covering for the future???)

- When Dave pointed out that Willis slide # 202 ^{Synchronous} ~~(LIFE)~~ in such a way as to eliminate the possibility of D.'s having shot the President, L. somehow introduced the name of Johnson! (Don't ask me what that adds up to!)
- L. also implied suspicion about "Cubans"!
- L. asked Dave just what he — and the rest of us — think we are going to accomplish with our probing, etc.
- Dave said that one thing we could do would be to interview witnesses ^{whom} ~~which~~ the WC had failed to examine — and when Dave asked who was responsible for important witnesses not being questioned, L. said he would not answer that query!
- L. was touchy about the "3 bullets" + about the rifle, insisting on the absolute validity of both W.R. conclusions on these 2 subjects!
- Next, he had the unmitigated gall to say that ~~(LIFE)~~ the WC had covered themselves in conspiracy implications but not on the premise that LHO was framed!!!
- L. insists that it is "Conclusive" that D. bought the rifle because of the handwriting tests! (Which rifle, the 36" or the 40.2" ???) (Even if one could accept the purchase, which I do not, does that prove anything ??)
- L. advocates putting ^{the} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ frames in ^{the} archives!
- Nothing can be done now, about the case, says L.!
- Again he made suspicious rumblings about Johnson!!
- Then he said "there is an Establishment in this country (as if we didn't know that!), LIFE is part of that Establishment" therefore the truth will not come out during the Johnson reign.

and lastly I said

- Dig up all the contradictions you want to - so what! -
nothing will be done about it!

The Darryl Click business has me absolutely non-plussed!

1st: I salute you for tracking down Hollander! You superb sleuth, you! How in the world did you discover his profession + citadel? Did you write The Reporter? You know, I had shown Ray the poem + we toyed with the idea, too, of writing him! But, as I told Ray this a.m., leave it to Sylvia not to miss a turned stone!

2nd: What does he mean when he applies the epithet "mythical" to Click? Does he or doesn't he believe that Click existed? I'm dense, I'm afraid - but my reading (interpretation) was that Click is another victim of the "peripheral crime" club - that he was involved in some veiled + mysterious way + that he killed himself. Clarity, please!

Speaking of "peripheral crimes" I was quite impressed with your (& Jones Harris') friend, Penn Jones! A whole treatment can + should be done on that subject - and I guess he's well under way toward that end.

That Senator testimony is incredible + the idea, too, that the WC didn't pick up the Carter business, God! - he's about the only one we know of at least who had conversations w. L.H.O. while they were at Beckley - and I'm afraid I can't buy the bit about Carter not having heard of Ruby inasmuch as I think I worked at the Courusel for 2 years! Incidentally, you, of course, know that Mrs. Markham was a waitress at the "Badwell Cafe" - I'm surprised Jones didn't bring that out. O, what a small town is Dallas! Ray, I was ~~was~~ going to subscribe to the Midlothian Mirror - but since you've already applied, we'll count on you to lend us the articles - + please tell me what each copy and/or release costs you so we can reimburse you. By the way, I must owe you a mint by now for the many Xeroxes, articles, magazines, etc., you've been supplying us with.

Please get out your little adding-machine & submit a bill. 5.
Many thanks for Tempo. I'm struggling thru that translation.
You didn't comment on the Match article. What did you
think?

I thought it was a disappointment, of course. There were,
as I had anticipated, inaccuracies — there was no
source reference, (vol., page, etc.) & the photographs were
so poor that instead of supporting Buchanan's premise,
they tended to weaken it. It's always easy to criticize,
however, & there are plus-es. Mainly, Match's prestige
& wide circulation & the fact that they reversed their
position — and the opportunity for "the innocent
(or ignorant) ones" to see for the first time how contrary
to the conclusions are the destinaries. Also, despite
Lawage's infinitely superior contributions — and yours —
and others, Buchanan did break into print in a quite
spectacular fashion. I hope there'll be significant repercussions
but, frankly, I don't know if the stuff is strong enough because
of the damned pictures! We shall see! Let us know of any
reactions you encounter. (I fear that Lawage's attack on B.
may be used to discredit B.'s article — you know, — "even
Leo Lawage has impugned this man's integrity & reliability..."
etc.) In the main, I have to conclude that it is a plus for
our side, despite the short-comings.

Have you seen anything of "Triunfo"?
Dave is getting cables from Madrid asking for more info &
material! He's so excited about his new rôle as a "somewhat"
recognized authority that he's really quite wild and way
out! It's a bit un-nerving, really. He's so excitable, naïf &
volatile! Wow! Ray won't take his calls at this point — but
I still listen! I still think he gets baited & milked by people like
Liebeler, & others — but there's nothing one can say or do about any of it.
I've just run out of breath. Love to you & write when you can
Hassie. (See next page!)

P.S. A friend in N.Y. writes of hearing the Mort Sahl program & says that Sahl was an inept interrogator with "the judge in the Ruby trial." Could it have been Spitoon-Expert Brown?? Anyway, my friend says that the judge "seemed to believe part of the W.P., the 3 bullets were aimed, he said, at Bumally!! If it was Brown, (or even if it wasn't), it's rather astonishing, isn't it?

P.P.S. Many thanks for the 2 New headers! Savage's article is excellent. Any communication with him? I still haven't heard a word in reply to my letter. (I didn't dare lend him the Buchanan piece!)