

6 December 1965

Dear Maggie,

I owe you two apologies. First, I did not open the Paris Match you were good enough to send me, so I did not realize that the translation was clipped onto the article. Thank you very much for sending it, I will read it tonight in bed.

Second, I had forgotten completely my promise of some weeks ago to send you my slips of paper giving the names of police officers mentioned in the radio log by number only. To make up for my oversight, I have typed up the list and enclose it herewith. When two names appear next to a number, separated by a diagonal, it indicates that the second man took over the number when the afternoon (4 pm) shift began and the morning man went off duty—at least, that is my inference.

I've just come back from a frustrating dinner with Joe Lobenthal and the "producer" who is to stage the readings. Joe and I had set this up, at my request, some ten days ago; but he did not call the producer until noon today, when he had already made commitments for the evening. He was only able to join us (in a lousy gin-mill restaurant) for about 40 minutes. But that was enough to horrify me—his concept of how this should be selected and staged is even wierder than Joe's—he thinks we should pander to the audience's interest in "character" (i.e. scandal sex etc), whereas Joe wants to start out with Mrs Kennedy's testimony (which will outrage 90% of an audience—who will play Jacqueline???) and then invent outrageous interruptions and asides from Oswald, which will ensure that anyone in the audience who does not already hate him and consider him guilty, will, after seeing our "production,"

On top of everything, Joe let me pay for my "dinner" (which was hardly edible) and get home on my own. I am attributing his surprising behavior to extreme pressure of work (on other questions), as I know he is inately sweet, considerate, and generous.

We are going to try it again next week, at my apartment; I hope I can persuade them not to approach the readings in this kind of spirit, or to drop the whole idea and let me look for another producer—rather than put something on that will defeat the very purpose and hope that I invested in this whole idea.

Forgive me for rushing but I have a million chores to do tonight, so I close with much love,

As ever,