

20 February 1969

Handwritten
reply sent
3/3/69

Dear Sylvia:

Thank you for your newsy letter. It arrived at the right time and the copy for Kerry was perfect.

The day I received your letter, Kerry and Cara had come over on the bus to spend the afternoon and have dinner with us. We were all three sitting around the dining table, going through clippings and talking. I could not possibly have waited hours to read what you had to say so it was really nice to be able to hand them a copy. I photocopied the Wesleyan Ode for Kerry and he had brought me a copy of the other - both of which I enjoyed immensely.

Enclosed is a kerrygram (zenarchy) just in case you didn't get one. There was a note with it asking me to tell you he would write as soon as he could but that he is right busy.

This is one baby that should grow up with a lot of love. One thing was so obvious when Kerry and Cara were here: they were really looking forward to the birth of their child. Seven pounds! Cara is small, a size 9, and she certainly did not look as if the baby would be so big. I can hardly wait to see Kreg Wilson Charles Aldous Thornley (!) but I suppose I will. Bob is working seven nights a week and one afternoon each week. He won't have a night off until April and I am impatient.

You are quite right: We don't need such "friends" writing about UFOs. The Flammondes, Steigers (Olson), Whritenours - Joan Whritenour is a definite liability. When I first met her she was not reluctant to claim to be a witch and had just decided to turn her attention to UFOs. Now she is not so proud of the label and takes umbrage whenever the subject is brought up. Sound familiar? A real hack in every meaning of the word.

Other enclosures have to do with the local press. Billings is to be based in Washington, D. C., and we are stuck with the same editor we have had for so long. It is a pity Billings was not informed of this before he bought a home here.

Week before last Dick Bothwell, St. Petersburg Times staff writer and daily columnist, was here for an interview about the Condon thing and he was saying how shocked he had been when he got an assignment actually to write something regarding UFOs since the Times' policy is definitely anti-UFO. I told him I had thought there might have been a change in editorial policies, that I had heard there was a new editor. He said, "Unfortunately - I suppose you are referring to Billings - he will spend most of his time in Washington. It did not turn out the way we expected." I got the impression he was disappointed.

The article is to be in the Floridian magazine, either this Sunday or next. I'll send you a copy so you may benefit from my pearls of wisdom. Dick has always been sympathetic so I am hopeful I will not be mis-quoted, a thing I have never known him to be accused of anyway.

Our news of the Garrison show is limited. In order to gain a guilty verdict against Shaw, isn't it also necessary to ask the jury to find that there was a conspiracy? That would mean two separate verdicts by the jury. Could it be he is mainly concerned with establishing a conspiracy, knowing all the time that the individuals he has charged had nothing to do with any of it but that they did help him gain the publicity necessary to focus attention on the

arguments supporting the conspiracy theory? From all I have heard and read (including the account of the first days of the trial in the AIC newsletter) his case against Shaw is the flimsiest ever and of the nature that no one in his right mind would ever consider strong enough for a conviction.

He has even flown in the face of evidence that Oswald didn't take any rifle to the TSBD that morning, much less do any shooting. How are his loyal contributors (such as Weisberg) to react to that? This is utter insanity.

Then there is Penn Jones. According to what Penn has published about Boxley and his being fired by Garrison - as an alleged CIA plant - Penn did not quite understand Garrison's actions or the advice he attributes to Weisberg and others. There should be more than one rift over that.

I don't understand any of it, probably in part because we are not being given more than fragmentary reports of the testimony, and most likely because it is incapable of being understood even by the principals.

Perhaps I am extremely naive; I must be. I suppose that when I read the copy of this letter in a month or two I will wonder how I could have been so stupid not to see it all clearly. This would not be unusual for me, sorry to admit.

Annie P. has moved on to other pastures. The last time I heard from her she was planning to move to Miami Beach. I wonder if she could be the same person you questioned in Philadelphia one time, the one you told to go back and tell her employers she had failed.

Also enclosed is the latest UFO RESEARCHER. There is a big error; the refund should be 25¢, not \$3.75. Or should it? It was intended to be \$.375 since rumor has it that a total of \$750,000 was spent by Condon's crew. If we take into account all that has been spent by the Air Force through Bluebook and its predecessors, it might be that the \$3.75 figure is low.

After abusing myself with attempts to read the Condon report, I have come to the belief that we should not be obliged to buy it, we should be paid for the trouble.

This reminds me that Hermann Oberth - the one who is so lovingly quoted by NICAP and others - swallowed his own integrity and embraced the "eternal ice-hollow earth" fantasy as being scientific truth. This was the belief that we live inside the earth, not on it; that the stars are not what we now think, but merely chunks of ice. How could anyone expect Oberth's statements about his belief that UFOs come from other planets to be taken seriously by others in the scientific community who know his background? Now Condon has placed himself in a like position as a scientist whose work should be considered unreliable.

Wonder how many on his committee were persuaded to shave off beards?

Wonder if there might be a tiny space on Apollo X for a stowaway who just can't take it here any longer. And I still wonder who is to protect us from our protectors with their ABMs, CBW, and other lunatic solutions to the coming population explosion. It's got to the point that, if the Russians don't get you, the US Air Force will and what they miss will be taken care of by the rest of the military who will be protecting you with your own life. No matter who does you in, dead is dead. When the UFO drivers fly over and look down on us, they must have good reason for not troubling themselves to contact our leaders. We must all of us appear as inmates of the ultimate in maximum security nut houses. All over the place small people are either starving or suffering

from malnutrition and all our technology is prostrated before the great god Mars, completely dedicated to devising newer and more horrible ways to kill big people, and little people.

Please pardon my depression. I have been listening to the news and an afternoon talk program. On the talk program I heard some women who have proclaimed in loud voices in the past that they are Christians. I heard them stating their opinions and wishes that the demonstrators in Chicago should have been lined up and shot down with machine-guns. Other details were added, all gory.

Now I have another confusion that seems to tie in with what you wrote about Garrison's trying to keep from having the autopsy photos and X-rays forced upon him. A week or so ago there was a news item that said a Washington judge had stated he would order this material turned over to Garrison if Garrison produced evidence of either shots from the front or a conspiracy - I forget now which it was. Night before last or the night before that, a news item said that a D.C. judge had ordered the archives to release all that stuff and the gun and bullets to Garrison. A day or so before that he had said a specific doctor would be allowed to study the photos and X-rays. Today I hear that Garrison has given up his attempts to get the photos and X-rays.

Right about here I give up.

My sympathies are with you when it comes to such activities as listening for endless hours to these miscellaneous souls who try to persuade us of their parts in a conspiracy. I am more fortunate than you since I do have more time to use that was but I still resent it a little.

Yours might have been Horsey. I have heard nothing at all since 31 December and would feel better if I could know where he is.

The British FSR has changed since you knew it. Waveney Girvan, the editor, died suddenly the latter part of 1964. The new editor since then, Charles Bowen, has done an outstanding job. At the time, he wrote me that he was so worried about his ability to handle it. He need not have been concerned. He has not encouraged the Adamski type at all. Some articles have been very technical.

By the way, when I wrote you before I spelled Paris Flammonde's name exactly the way he spelled it three times on the radio. I know the reception was bad that night but not that bad. It would be difficult to mistake the pronunciation of the letter "d" for that of the letter "n". I know your spelling is correct; I have since seen it in print more than once.

Got to stop and try to catch up some other correspondence. I don't know what is slowing me down but I just can't seem to settle down and concentrate lately. Old age, I suppose.

With love for you and Allegra,

