

January 16, 1967.

Dear Sylvia:

thanks for your numerous letters, the various clip-pings, the outline for your book (fascinating!), and other items. I will never tell you enough how much I appreciate you keeping me up with everything on the Kennedy matter.

Many things to tell you- while you're somewhere on the West Coast spreading the good word.

1): Schiller: it's too ~~easy~~ for me to tell you " I told you so" - but I knew the man was a louse and I had seen him at work on two occasions - once in L.A. while he was trying to kidnap Mrs. Nhu, the day her husband was shot - and the other time in Dallas. I did not want to warn you too strongly because it was none of my business - but I knew he meant trouble. I had told the same thing to Penn but he'll never learn, I'm afraid, because he is too naive and too good-hearted. The result is bad enough: I received the record the other day and listened to it very carefully. It's pure trash - pure dirt. It sounds as if it was commissioned by somebody or some group to discredit all the people (Lane, Jones, S. Martin, you, etc...) who've been trying to get at the truth. I particularly despise the way Epstein has played into their hands - making fun of Penn, etc... I know, as much as anyone (and I think I told you so on the phone) that Penn goes too far when he says that all those deaths were indeed planned - I know some of them are quite accidental - but he is a sincere and serious man - and the way that record smears him is lousy... Even from a professional stand point of view, the job is amateurish and corny: those guitars ~~xx~~ humming softly in the background, Western style : what a mess! I wrote a few ~~words~~ derogatory words about it in my Sunday column and will send it along, if you care.

Whatever happens, though, I think you should stay away from Schiller. He's done all he could - don't give him a chance to get in the spotlight again - let him rot and count his dollars - but, next time, please, watch out.

2): Ruby's death: well, what can we add? I also wrote a story on that which, by the way, was picked up by Paul Ghali for the Chicago Daily News and reprinted in the Seattle Times (Jan 8) and sent to me by a friend of mine over there ~~with~~. I have the vague feeling I sent you that story - let me know if I did or not - and if not, whether you want it. I was all ready to fly back to Dallas when Ruby died but my editors thought it wasn't worth it. Damn them! I have had news from my contacts ^{over} there and the story there is of a gross and incredible incompetency and negligence from the City (the jail people and also the docs.)

It seems that Ruby's sister, Eva Grant, is going to ~~ste~~ the city of Dallas. I believe a few things may come out sooner or later. I also have the full story of the "tape" business: it was pure corruption.

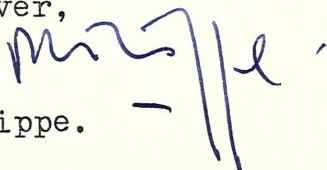
3): Manchester: the book is coming out like ~~x~~ in Look in "Paris-Match" and it is fairly interesting from an anecdotal point of view - mostly on the attitudes of the Texas political circles. But as I feared, there's nothing really new - and then, Manchester does not dare challenge the Warren Commission. So much for that.

4): Your book: I was very interested by your table of contents. Don't forget the ~~last~~ chapter on Ruby - I can't wait to read it. Any chance you have a pre-published copy? It sounds good and, most of all, it sounds serious and well documented. Again, congratulations! I hope, when it comes out, to persuade some French publisher to get a translation and sell it here...

5): I suppose you've read Ramparts - Double issue, January. I, again want to congratulate you very warmly for your letter on the "spoof" business. It is exactly what I wanted to tell them at the time I realized it was, ~~indeed~~, a spoof. Their ~~x~~ "special report" at ~~the~~ end of the magazine, is fairly good, didn't you think?

That's about it. I am a bit mad at Penn for not writing, for I feel, somehow, that, ~~down~~ there, in the middle of the mess, he must have learnt more than any of us. Well.. I guess he's too busy. I hope your West Coast and Canadian trip was successful. I have a good offer from a French publisher to write a book - not on the Report or JFK's ~~death~~ - but a personal vision of America, and why and how, in my view, these things can happen ~~over~~ there. I hesitate a bit - for I have the feeling everything has been said about that but he says the French don't know the "hidden face of America" as he calls it and that I should ~~tell~~ them about it. We'll see. Not decided yet.

As ever,


Philippe.