

Monday Feb 19

Dear Sylvia,

Thank you for your kind note, & hope that you were able to read parts of the book and found it worthwhile.

A few days before your letter arrived I had just finished Accessories After the Fact, & thought you did a wonderful job and I've been meaning to drop you a line on this for over a month.

I have one disagreement, a small one to be sure, on your discussion of the press. <sup>(i.e. socialists)</sup> Leftists, as opposed to radical liberals, condemned the Report universally, or close to it. Only Stone praised it. As such he is an exception, if he is included on the left. Therefore your statement (p 462 last line) about spokesmen for the left puzzles me. Not that some on the left are not to be criticized for supporting the Critics without any effort at acquainting themselves with the arguments. You're making a similar criticism of Garrison-philes. Incidentally, Bettelman & I had lunch with Stone in the summer of 1966. Indeed, <sup>sure</sup> as you ~~wrote~~ have put it, Stone acted out some kind of preservation instinct.

Anyway, I enjoyed hearing from you & hope we can keep in touch.

David Mermelstein