

9 November 1965

Dear Dave,

Thank you very much indeed for your exciting and informative letter. I shall re-read it several times and may send you a supplementary reply. However, I am writing this short note immediately so as to explain the situation in re Herbert Orth of LIFE. I have airmailed a report on my telephone conversation with Orth, last week, both to Maggie Field and to Lillian Castellano, and I am sure that they will be glad to show it to you. In essence, I put one question to Orth---Had there been any interruption in the sequence of frames in the color slides which he made up from the Zapruder film and gave to the WC.

His categorical answer was: "No, there was not." Consequently, it seems crystal-clear that Shaneyfelt deliberately misrepresented the facts when he told me on 22 July 1965 by telephone that frames 208 through 211 were not included in the set of color slides provided to the Commission by LIFE.

As you rightly infer, I would rather not follow up my telephone call to Mr Orth by writing to him. I believe that you should undertake that written inquiry personally, and will be grateful to receive a copy of your letter to him and a copy of his reply, if any. His address is 1066 Virginia Avenue, Bronx, N Y Telephone TA 3-9342.

Yesterday I had a visit from Sylvan Fox, whom I had not met previously, and we talked for some two hours. I believe that he is an impressive person of good balance and surprising detachment about the case. He tells me that his book was not his own idea but that the publishers approached him, apparently because one of their people was agitated about the deficiencies in the WR, and pressed him to do a book. He agreed, setting himself the standard that if he found even one major defect in his study of the WR & H&E, he would proceed with the book. Needless to say, he found far more than one major defect. He had hoped to bow out of the scene completely once the book was finished but now his publishers are pressing him again, to promote the book by accepting radio and TV offers. This is inconvenient to Fox but he is reluctantly accepting a limited number of invitations, such as the five-hour panel show to which I have also been invited, on Saturday the 13th, midnight to five am (I told Maggie about that on the phone). Fox is progressively disturbed and angry about the inevitable question from almost everyone---how does he feel about risking his "respectability"? So much so, that he is planning to write a magazine article expressing his grave concern about the prevalent attitude that to even question a product of the Establishment in objective and factual terms is considered widely as a risk of respectability. Also, he told me, his book is being widely reprinted, in serial form or as excerpts, in non-NY press such as the Chicago American and a Texas paper, also of conservative/rightist editorial policy. Incidentally, Fox and I discovered that we grew up in the same part of Brooklyn, attended the same high school a few years apart, and of course now live one street apart on 12th Street! We still do not know the other panelists, and are both hoping that M Lane is NOT to be included.

I am sending Maggie a copy of this letter to save writing another with the same contents in re Fox. Very best regards, and please let me know what develops further with L. and with H.O. etc. Thanks again for your letter.

