

12/3/65

Dear Sylvia,

~~included~~ ^{under separate cover} all but one reenactment photo. (★)

Long letter, plus notes on phone calls, WJL interview, coming.

Price on photos is 80¢ apiece.

See if you can interest others in any sets.

All future copies for your personal use about 25 or 30 ¢ apiece, even 20¢ depending on photographer available.

And as more sets are sold I will successively reimburse those who bought first so that there is no inequality.

Wait'll you see my interview and phone call notes!

Dave

Dave

(★)

(ZR-4 will be mailed within a few days).

Sylvia, I am enclosing this note on a separate piece of paper so that ~~it~~ it doesn't necessarily end up in your ordinary correspondence file, if you do not wish it to be there.

~~As~~As you explained in your last letter, I too, started on this case determined not to get involved in any arguments, personality conflicts, in-fighting etc. Such conflicts, of course, are not necessarily restricted to the East coast.

What should I say next? If I give you any specifics at all, am I not a mere gossip?

On the other hand, I do not wish to make unsupported assertions and/or accusations.

Everyone I deal with in this case does not have to be my best friend. There is such a thing as having a "businesslike" relationship between people, for the express purpose of transferring information, when the occasion arises.

The specific purpose of this short note is to tell you that I would prefer to keep my contacts with any third parties cut here to a minimum in the transferring of information from you to me.

Therefore, if there is something you would like me to know about, please try to send it to me directly. I intend to take particular pains to do so, in the future, with regards to you.

I do not intend to imply that any information intended for me hasn't reached me. I simply prefer to keep as many of my relationships on a person to person basis, so that there is no result akin to the New York power failure simply because one of my fellow researchers blows a fuse. (No one has blown a fuse yet----- but I always plan long range.)

I personally express great thanks and gratitude for the fact that a person of your capabilities recognized and thought significantly enough of some significant omissions from Buchanan's ~~article~~ to comment on it as you did. I am slowly getting to the bottom of exactly how this came about. What is even more interesting is the financial end of this. By the standards of an unemployed student, some rather large sums of money are involved. In all my dealings on this case, I try to act as a gentleman, a scholar, and an ethical businessman. I have consulted an attorney in Beverly Hills who specialized in copyright, and am following his sound and conservative advice.

As you may know, the discovery of and physical explanation of the curving black streaks on the sign was completely my own. My verbatim explanation, quoted as that of "an American expert", (and right down to the explanation of the crystal structure of the material of which the sign is made!) is included in the Italian version of the story. I am told it is also in the ~~Spanish~~ Spanish and German versions (De Poste). The fact that this work (let alone the ~~analysis~~ analysis of the Moorman photo) was uniquely my own, seems to be recognized by some of the overseas publications. There has been a large exchange of cables this week between me and them, and I may yet receive some money for them. What is most surprising is that THEY wired me "asking permission" to publish this or that. Much hard ~~feelings~~ feelings are engendered

(TRIUMPH)

because there are those who argue and/or imply ~~KKKK~~ and/or seem to think that the Kennedy assassination is a subject so sacrosanct ~~KKKK~~ and so publicity starved that anyone who does any research in this area---original, or otherwise--- is somehow ethically obligated to give it away, and any attempt at all to exert his proper legal rights to the effort of his mind is somehow disgusting and obscene. A special sort of subliminal, unspoken pity and contempt is transmitted by those who feel this way. I am not a robber-barron, nor am I a shm000, nor do I think it imperative to hthink in these extremes.

When you publish your book, do you intend to use any photos? Specifically, do you think you'll be using the Newsweek photo?

I am working out some legal agreements which may put me in the position~~X~~ to have complete rights to that photo, with the one exception of the right to sell to major American newspapers and magazines.

If you do use that photo, and if ~~KKKK~~ my deal works out, I will be able to sell you rights to publish that picture at a much cheaper price than you would be charged if you went directly to the photographer, who is now sole owner of rights in the U.S. No committment in my question, I'm just curious to know whether your book---for example---had intended to use it.

I have some publication plans of my own, and that photo would be great to use with practically any subject I write on concerning the Report. For this reason I find that it may be profitable to acquire rights to use it.

For your information, Paris Match paid Willis \$500 to publish slide 5, one time only, in that issue. They paid \$500 for the right to publish the Newsweek picture, one time only.

The amount of money involved when you consider all the publications of Buchanan's article runs into the thousands. I have not received one penny from the man, (even for the cost of prints!) Furthermore, he ignored certain specific requests I made, and wouldn't tell me the name of the magazines involved, until after it was done. Much was done in the name of "secrecy" in the three weeks preceding publication, that, in retrospect, could also have been d~~es~~igned to deprive me of specific information I needed to exert my legal rights to any ~~of~~ my material he was using.

I had no idea about ~~what~~ ^{were involved} publications/~~at these articles~~ until after the closing time of the issues involved.

I may say much more about this in a future letter. I want to see what happens next. In certain respects, this has been a very bitter and annoying experience, but I have also learned some valuable lessons.

(P.S. If you wanted to use slide 7 for "crowd reaction" - Willis will probably ask \$500. I'm trying to bargain with him. He is a tough customer).