

May 8, 1966

Dear Sylvia,

Reply is attached

Things have been happening so fast another letter is in order. Last Wednesday, I got a call from Welsh and ex-FBI agent Turner. They were in town and wanted to meet me. I spent several hours with them. The night before, they had a policy meeting with Sheinbaum in Santa Barbara and had made some decisions about the lead off issue which I thought were not too good. They were going to start off with, of all things, the peripheral murders---to get up interest, plus some material on why there must be four or more bullets.

However, the emphasis was going to be on the peripheral murders, and they really didn't seem to be too clear on just how they were going to show more than 3 shots. Their information and state of knowledge was so weak that they did not know, for example, why two hits scored less than 42 frames apart would mean more than one shooter. Nor did they know why, if a bullet indeed pierced the sign during the splice, that would mean a second shooter. I explained everything as clearly as I could. Finally, they asked me some questions about Jones Harris. It seemed Warren Hinckle had made some sort of half promise to let Jones Harris be the man to oversee the putting together of the articles. They are very leery of him because of his militant anticommunism and because of some incidents where he is supposed to have called people in Dallas urging them not to speak to Lane's representatives.

They told me they were not going to use my dialogue. "All articles are going to be staff written. Fred Cock's manuscript was formally rejected, too.

They had first spent a few hours at Ray's place before visiting me. We each have different outlooks on this. Anyway, they had absolutely no idea that Buchanan had published any articles at all concerning the events behind the wall, and were amazed to see the issues of Tempo, Match, and the three of Triunfo that I have.

Meanwhile, I have arranged with Liebeler for an interview with Ramparts. We spent quite some time going over the Liebeler notes. I also went over the Dulles conversations, and the Joseph Ball radio interview.

That I was most proud of, however, was persuading them that the head reaction argument was absolute---if it could be presented correctly, and if you could get the right "names" of physicists and neurosurgeons behind it. I was bubbling over with all sorts of definite suggestions, because this conversation represented to me the main chance I would have to influence their approach.

You can imagine how excited I was, therefore, when they asked me whether I'd be interested in becoming a member of their staff for a short while if they asked me? I told them I'd love to, and they said they'd see.

First thing Thursday morning, I got a phone call asking just that. I am on "independent study" this term at school and have no classes. I do, however, have certain obligations and I will simply juggle as best as I can. The first thing they wanted me to do was to start lining up the interviews with physicists and neurosurgeons.

I have had wonderful success so far. One Oxford trained nuclear physicist who is a prof at Univ of Calif. at L.A. (UCLA) is willing to be quoted concerning the absolutism of Newton's laws concerning JFK's head reaction. Things like "Isaac Newton

would roll over in his grave at the thought that the 313 head shot came from behind President Kennedy".

The plan is to get the physicist to vouch for the shot coming from the front, ~~SCCCSSC~~ assuming no medical reaction can explain the head snap---and a neurosurgeon to rule out the medical ~~KKK~~ reaction known as decerebrate rigidity.

Our physicist is more than that---he has a double appointment at UCLA: he is also officially affiliated with the UCLA Brain Research Institute. Anyway, I interviewed the neurosurgeon again this afternoon. He is willing to be quoted, and positively rules out the decerebrate reaction. I now have even more (and clearer) reasons than I put in the dialogue. He and his wife are both fascinated with the whole case.

By the way, Ramparts requirements are quite strict on this. All quotes used are going to be signed ~~XXXXXX~~ approved by the party involved---in writing, and tucked away in their files. The neurosurgeon is actually going to initial galley proofs.

I interviewed the head of the physics dept. at UCLA---a rather well known physicist. He says the argument is faultless. As of the meeting, however, he declines to be quoted. Its the first time he's seen any of this anti-WC stuff, and he's quite upset over it.

Monday or Tuesday, I'm supposed to see Dr. Richard Feynman, a Nobel prize winner at Cal Tech. The interview itself should be fun---he's a fascinating person. And if I can morally exhort him to permit direct quotation, I will be quite elated.

By the way, Ramparts tentatively wants to steer away from Dr. Fauling, because he is involved in so ~~KK~~ many issues. The trouble is that Feynmann is so completely apolitical---he may react to my plea to use his name as if I wanted it for a beer commercial. We'll see.

I'm supposed to go up to San Francisco Tuesday or Wednesday. Until you hear otherwise, address your mail to my L.A. address as my girlfriend will be forwarding it in special delivery envelopes.

I think there may be quite a bit of travelling around in store. In any event, they will be paying me a salary, and ---as a result--- I'll definitely be able to go to Dallas and do many of the things I had given up hope ~~KKK~~ doing due to lack of money. In all probability I'll end up doing them for Ramparts, and mostly at their expense --- assuming they go for some of my ideas.

Wednesday afternoon Welsh raised the possibility of them asking me to join up, and Thursday morning asked me. I found out Thursday morning that Maggie went into a hospital Wednesday night for surgery. I hadn't heard of this before, and neither had Ray. I don't know whether she had mentioned this possibility to Ramparts. Assuming she did, I suppose my coming on board is related to Maggie's suddenly being incapacitated like this, when their editorial deadlines are nearing. Anyway, they made no mention of this.

You are the first person I have told about their offer to me. I am also going to tell Vince. The following probably seems like a weird statement to make but I haven't figured out how to tell Ray without straining our "much improved" relationship.

I put much improved in quotes because I have learned that I can get along by simply quietly presenting my side of any argument, and letting him get in the last word, go through all the arguments of why

he is right---and then simply not reply. At the stage where I present rebuttals, he gets upset. Then I get speeches that I shouldn't call him unless absolutely necessary. So now I just state my case quietly and then make like a polite sounding board.

A case in point, which I want to bring up in connection with Ramparts anyway, is my set of photos and enlargements on OE 749. If you remember, Maggie brought a set of these with her when she first went to New York. (I have a set, and a little-Kerox'd blurp which will soon be in the mail to you). The argument is that "Oswald's" left arm in OE 749 is not really his. ~~XXXX~~ ~~XX~~ I have had this checked by many doctors, and they all agree with me. The arm and its position represents an ~~an~~official impossibility. (Maggie told me that she showed this to all of you at the meeting, and it got quite a laugh). Now all sorts of people have seen this, and agreed. My neurosurgeon was quite specific. Ray is the only person who disagrees. Not that he really ever saw the picture until 3 days ago. At that time, he had run over my apartment to get something, glanced at the picture in a dimly lit room, and quickly said it was not so. The next day, he called me up to tell me that after thinking it over, he is more convinced than ever that it is not so. I am particularly proud of (and he is particularly bugged by) the fact that Maggie ~~KX~~ pretty much agrees with me that that arm is fishy as hell. His exasperation on this point is quite evident. It's as if I was some sort of fuller brush man that sold Maggie a bill of goods on this point, and no matter how hard he tries---he can't undo it. Phoneying the arm implies a "triple composit~~X~~"---ie, there was some reason why they couldn't pose a model with gun and newspaper in that yard, and then merely switch~~X~~ heads. Since Ray can think of no reason, he dismisses it. He also dismisses my little coup of getting that ~~Howev~~ letter, ~~KX~~ informing me that any intelligent person can see the frames are switched. In fact, whenever I do anything, or discover something new, or get some new idea---I have learned NOT to pick up the phone and call him. So I have cultivated a whole new set of Warren Report buddies in the phys~~ic~~s department at UCLA. Several members of the staff have used the Kerox machine there to reproduce the Dialogue, and I have a lot of fun discussing various aspects of the case with them. My natural reaction to any piece of work ~~he~~ does is to ask for a copy, since I usually like it. His natural reaction to anything I develop is the subtle sneer, plus a torrent of criticism. I usually ask him if he'd like a copy, and I usually get a reply that amounts to "Only if YOU really want ME to see it and you happen to have extras you have absolutely no use for". Its quite discouraging.

I almost feel, in the light of this, that I have to somehow apologize to him for Ramparts asking me to join up, if I want to stay on talking terms. Its a weird situation, but I know I'm not imagining it.

If I can be any help, Sylvia, in personally presenting to them any of your views---please let me know. Welsh mentioned to me that Ramparts had incurred your ire in connection with Salandria's false alarm (which I hardly know about)----but my interjected comment and his next words were almost identical: that you would always be interested in cooperating in bringing the case to the public.

Regards,

Dave
Dave

P.S.

A vignette: from "The Kennedy Assassination and the American Public", Stanford Press, page 65:

Written by Tom Pettit of NBC news:

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"Extraordinary security precautions were in effect when I arrived at police headquarters. The basement where Oswald was to leave the jail...was guarded by policemen with rifles. Everything was ready to whisk Oswald through the basement and into an unmarked squad car.... Shortly after 11 AM, I was standing with a microphone, relaying the information I had about plans to move Oswald. I was to tell the control room in New York when I had him in sight. That would be the cue to switch to Dallas. One police officer, to whom I shall long be grateful, URGED ME to stand on the north wall rather than the south wall of the jail entrance. Had I remained in the first spot, I would have been in the direct line of fire".

Makes you wonder.

P.P.S. I am soon going to have archive pictures of Lovelady. The FBI took them. Turner is soon going to get them. Have you heard about this? Are you going to get a set from someone in New York? If not, I'll duplicate mine and send you a copy. Turner saw them and said there is indeed a strong resemblance to Oswald.