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Dear Sylvia,

It was nice speaking with you Saturday, there atop Mt. San Jacinto. Speaking of firsts---I'm sure that that was probably the only transcontinental telephone call re the Warren Report from the top of the Palm Springs aerial tramway.

Whether it was the altitude, or the fresh air, or what, I don't know, but I felt rather astonished afterwards, as I recollect the large amount of information I spoke about concerning my work. I am usually very close mouthed about all these things. You are privy to a very large body of information concerning various aspects of working hypothesis, concepts, and viewpoint---all of which is being woven into the manuscript. I realize that I did not set forth a complete brief for each of these items, but I did speak of them at least in the context of working hypothesis. Whether one goes from working hypothesis to evidence, or from evidence to working hypothesis---a bright person with a well ordered mind can frequently go from one to the other easily and naturally, and, therefore, when speaking with such people, I am usually forced to speak about neither if I wish ~~MXK~~ to conceal the existence of both. Furthermore, there is a logic implicitly at work, which connects different working hypothesis together, and the situation is, in some ways, comparable to a scrabble game. The search for missing letters is greatly narrowed if a few are known, than if none are known, and the size of the word itself is an unknown quantity. Just as in chemistry, knowledge concerning the shape of a structure can alter and influence a chemist's search for data to prove its existence.

Therefore, please understand that you are in possession of privileged information, and keep that in mind whenever discussing the case. I'm delighted with the fact that we can talk about these things, and you are the only major critic with whom I have shared this type of information.

The Lyndon Johnson interview was a beaut. The LA Times carried an editorial, probably written by Ed Guthman, their national affairs editor, (and RFK's former close associate and press aide at the Justice Department) entitled "Lyndon Johnson, Historian". Very critical and amusing. When Lyndon finished telling about how he didn't resign in January, 1968, because he'd left that piece of paper at home (this whole story was covered by Drew Pearson in Look, July 23, 1968; "The Ghosts that Haunted LBJ; the True Story of his decision to withdraw"; p25) I suppose he hoped that all over America, wives would turn to their husbands and say."How human! Remember, George, how the same thing happened to us when you left such-and-so on the night table at home...".

But Lyndon cannot have it both ways. If he had it written down in late 1967, it can't be because of McCarty's candidacy, which was declared on 11/30, and was not given much of a chance at that time, or even one month later. If it was because of the war, then fine, but he claims that Ladybird wrote him in 8/64 saying (the memo that starts: 11:06, 'beloved...') that his term would only be 3 years and 3 months from time of inauguration. Now, if that's true, is it just a coincidence that, 3 yrs and 3 months later, there just happened to be a war that was getting out of control and which needed deescalating? Or is it the case

that the whole Ladybird memo was an ex post facto rationalization which he didn't realize conflicted with others he offered.

And psychologically, how does one account for Lyndon resigning in the face of adversity while at the same time claiming he could have won both nomination and election?

And how do you like LBJ saying he never wanted to be President at all, and his statements, hardly believable, that Joe Kennedy called him up back in '55 and offered him support? Well, dead men don't talk, and I guess that takes care of that.

As Ladybird once said: "Oh, Mrs. Kennedy, you know we never even wanted to be Vice President and now, dear God, it's come to this." (V.566-7)

Undoubtedly, the Ladybird memo deserves a place in history along with Jack Ruby's statements that he killed Oswald to avoid Mrs. Kennedy having to come to Dallas for a trial.

And how did you like Cronkite's reactions? I'm sure old Walter doesn't question the legitimacy of the Johnson administration politically; yet he was too good a journalist not to be skeptical. He just knew some of those answers weren't adding up; that he was getting a cock and bull story from Johnson, but the devil of it was, he didn't seem to be able to figure out just why!

Variety, I understand, had a good review of the performance. Max Lerner did one, too. ** If you know of any others that express some well put sarcastic incredulity, please let me know, so I can clip them. (** the usual temporizing)

Its already too late, of course, since everything is taped and in the vault. But what Lyndon needs is a good course in Stanislavsky method acting. I am really looking forward with great glee to that third program, KXMMX to see how a man who I believe had fairly complete foreknowledge re 11 22 goes about attempting to credibly feign the recollections of shock and sorrow and whatever he thinks ought to be there on his face. Lee Strassberg, where are you, now that you are needed down on the ole LBJ ranch!

About the documents. The time has come to talk money. The only reason you haven't heard sooner, is that the archivist takes so damn long to process orders. Here's what I have ordered. Refer to the subject list of the ABP index. I have ordered everything except: subjects 16, (mexico trip); 22 (material relating to Ruby), 33A (other Inv, LHO--unknown content) 34A (Miscell Alleged, LHO---unkn wn content) 33B, 34B (same as 33A and B, respectively, except here titles are known).

First of all, refer to my letter to you of Nov 10, 1969. You've got a 147 page credit coming. Now, go to the abp index subject list. Ignore, for the moment, the *d pages. The total of all the subject's I mentioned is 2043 pages. (here have been several minor errata data in some of the totals. Mine adds up to 2043. Some of my original totals were off, but not that much). TXKX KXXKXAMKDXKXXKX

If you look back to my letter of Oct. 28, you'll see that this is in accord with what I said I would order there, except that, at that time, I was seriously thinking of not ordering subject #'s

31, (past employment) 32A (acquaintances allegedly in past contact with); and 32A/CD 5 (same as 32A, only confined to material in CD 5). However, I finally decided to ~~order~~ this material after getting a glimpse of certain pages that fell in that category that were on another film, and being quite elated. (All kinds of interviews with White Russians, for one thing).

So, the entire ABNP order comes to 2043 pages, on the assumption that no starred pages are sent. There will probably be some, but lets make that assumption, for arithmetic simplicity.

Now, in ~~XXXXXX~~ addition, I ordered the complete CD 630(a), the FBI summary report on Tippit, (plus 630 b, c, d, e etc.--- affidavits of tippit witnesses).

I don't know how big the summary report on Tippit is (though I had a letter in to the archivist asking, but he never sent the answer). But a good bet is that its under 200 pages, because the JFK summary report of Dec 9 is only ~~99~~ pages, including index at the end. Presumably, the Tippit document would be a good deal shorter).

Thus, we are dealing with an order which is 2043 pages plus starred pages that are not title pages, plus Tippit summary report.

Again, working in round numbers, we are dealing with something over 2000 pages long. At 5¢/page, that will come to \$100 plus 5¢-times-the-number-of-pages-over-2000. And lopped off the top is this 147 page credit.

I would like to handle it like this: that you send me \$100. When I get the order in, I'll know right away to what extent starred pages are title pages, and how big the summary report is. At that point, either I'll owe you a small sum of money, or vice-versa, but that can be handled quite easily.

From the time the microfilm ~~gives~~ is delivered to my mailbox I will need two weekends to work on this. The firm that ~~gives~~ prints out for me will do that part in one or two days. I expect delivery anywhere between the third week in January and the 2nd week in February. I just can't tell with the archivist. He's given me 10 day service, but he's also given me 8 week service. I'll drop you a postcard the day the film comes in.

As before, everything is refundable if there is any hitch with this order, or with this rate. Also, absolutely no constraints placed upon use of anything.

Incidentally, there are very few other orders I am placing at the archives, but they are already designed, typed up, and ready to go out the day this one comes in. One concerns the state dept files; another concerns abnp sections of the clements reports, but only under the heading: "whereabouts in last 48 hours". And, in mid December, I received a film with all synopsis and table of contents of FBI reports on the Oswald hypothesis in these two groups: 1) all tedas cities 2) Washington, DC. When I go through this material, I'll tell you more about it. (For example, I wanted to see whether

Laredo clothing store purchase was covered, out of El Paso. (It isn't mentioned). (But there are interviews with JC, Mrs. JC).

Not much material is involved here--it's in the 100-160 page area---I forget just now. I've just quickly scanned this film once. I'll write you more about it. It has material on another defector who I have thought might be an alternate patsy. Nothing sensational; but very good for the sake of completeness, depending on what your interests are.

Also---I have all the FBI summary reports (I believe there are two of them) on Jack Ruby (as well as on Oswald (or "Death of JFK"--
as the FBI would say). *The Eastern ones.*

The RUBY summary reports are, I think, CD 4 and CD 107.1. (The second one is the supplemental). (Ruby summary report is entled "Investigation of Killing of Lee Harvey Oswald") The summary report is v plus 31pp; the supplemental is v plus 26. This totals 67 pages.

*Ruby
Stuff
available
now,* If you ever want any of this stuff, let me know. I have not read these reports carefully, but they will be important in my book to show how the local fbi office, this time under Clements, completely accepted the "Ruby came in down the ramp story!". As I once mentioned to you on the phone, I have color photographs plus all information concerning another entrance which one can go from western union and into the police basement, and its actually shorter than the main street ramp. XXXXXXXXX The existance of this entrance and the way one gets to it was left off the maps given the WC by the dallas police, which is somewhat equivalent to leaving the grassy knoll off a map of Dealey Plaza. Furthermore, this method of entry is directly related to certain activities ~~and~~ on the part of Sgt. Dean, and Officer Newman, and may explain why Griffin was so burnt up at them. But this is another story.

I think someone at fbi headquarters has a grim sense of humor. The summary report has the following subheads in the Table of contents.

I. The Killing of Lee Harvey Oswald.

- A. Oswald's arrest
- B. Removal Plans Publicized
- C. Removal Steps Initiated
- D. Oswald Killed
- E. Assailant Identified

Be the abnp order. I would suggest that you send me the \$100 sometime during the next 5 weeks.

I hope I haven't made things sound more complicated than they are. Astrology friends tell me that since I'm a Virgo, I'm supposed to be good at detail work, but my experiences in Oct in putting together that abnp index, and then the order based on it, were a bit too much. But assuming the archivist does his part correctly, it should all be very mechanical from here on in.

Best wishes,

David

David

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