

Sept 17, 1966

Dear Sylvia,

Sorry I'm so slow in answering. Your letter of 8/30 arrived shortly before we left on vacation.

The Sahl show with Lane was very good, and we now have a strong ally on L.A. TV for as long as they keep him on the air. His program was just renewed for seventeen weeks; and I understand his ratings are ~~are~~ quite high, but I can't believe they'll keep him on indefinitely with the kind of things he's been saying about Vietnam and the case.

The response to the station to the Lane show was overwhelmingly favorable, and Sahl made some follow up ~~xxx~~ remarks this week which were the strongest I have yet heard offered on the media:

" . . . I try to open up the issues because America's on fire . . . and I say to anyone who doubts it, John Kennedy's blood is on your hands, not just on the assassins' . . . (but for the liberals) it's business as usual . . . (U.S.) imperialism around the world . . . goes on . . . and we continue burning people in Vietnam . . .

" . . . we (the critics) have the burden of truth, but no one wants to accept it . . . (he then quoted favorably from the current Nat'l Guardian comments on Lane and Savage and/on Fred Graham's NYT review on both) unfavorably

" . . . but to you (who disagree with the critics) . . . I just want to ask you again . . . when are ~~you~~ going to find out who blew the President's brains out in Dallas? I mean, isn't that enough for you? If that isn't enough, I don't know what we can do to follow that, to use an old show business (expression). That's enough for me; but his blood is on everybody's hands--everybody who helps to obfuscate the truth. . .

"It's time to choose up sides. You're either interested in finding out who killed him, or you want to help hide it. There's no social democracy in this issue; and if you want to let that happen--followed by what happened to Oswald, you don't just lose your President, you lose your justice. If you're a social democrat, that doesn't scare you either . . . "

Lane's book, already in short supply after other local exposure on radio and TV (despite complete press blackout), was completely sold out early the morning following his Sahl appearance.

Re the 10,000 TMO's to L.A., a nearby magazine stand that hadn't previously carried it put in a 100 copies a couple of Fridays ago, and the proprietor told me he had 22 left three days later. There's no question of the value of plugs by Sahl -- or Dolan in S.F.

I got a very brief non-committal note of appreciation from Silvers, with a request that I let him keep the copy for future reference. I've agreed. It's rather frustrating since I feel the widespread publicity has made 399 a red hot item now, but I doubt the piece will see daylight.

Toni McKerrow of Esquire contacted me from N.Y. and asked a few questions about the Zapruder film--particularly my hypothesis that JFK was first hit (in the throat) at 189. Since she said they were ~~gathering~~ gathering research for a December article, I'm hoping that doesn't knock out the piece you said you were doing for them. Assuming not, with Epstein's that would make three they're doing. Is that correct to your knowledge?

The piece from your manuscript in the current TMO was fine, and I was sorry to hear from Maggie about your turn-down from Random House.

Dave Welsh ~~sfx~~ (whom I think you'll remember) told me ~~the~~ the November Ramparts will be out the end of October with an article on the peripheral deaths. It will carry no commitment for continuing involvement, but he did say they anticipate additional articles.

I'm sorry to say Lillian's husband had a relapse and had to be re-hospitalized after a few days at home. I have been unable to reach her since our return Wednesday, but a relative of hers told me he's holding his own.

Sincerely,


Ray