

October 30, 1966

Dear Sylvia,

I just wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed and valued our meeting. It reminded me again of the necessity of such personal contact for genuine understanding between individuals.

Bill gave me Xeroxed copies of your letters to U.S. News, Commentary, and Saturday Review. They are, in keeping with your usual standards, excellent. I am constantly amazed at the prodigious volume and high quality of important writing you turn out. I don't know how you do it, but I'm glad we are on the same side.

An article in today's L.A. Times announced the formation in N.Y., by Bishop Pike and Ed Keating, of " . . . a committee to ask President Johnson to release 'suppressed' evidence on the assassination". The article went on to say that " . . . both men said they will accept the lone assassin theory if it is confirmed by examination of the 'suppressed' evidence".

As I believe I told you in N.Y., I have long felt there is serious danger in the critics appearing to publicly commit their entire case to what may or may not be released from previously withheld data. I felt this way as long ago as Jan '65, when Vince in his Liberation article (and Dellinger, editorially) demanded the release of the post-mortem X-rays and photos.

I strongly suspect a concerted effort by establishment forces may be underway (of which the Jacob Cohen article in The Nation may be the first example), to build up the importance of these X-rays and photos, and perhaps unreleased documents generally, in an effort to get the critics to "bite". Then, they may well be released with considerable fan-fare--at least to W.C. members, "independent" scholars, and maybe even critics as well--and they will ~~be making~~ support the official case, or do nothing to hurt it.

Obviously, forces capable of the numerous examples of case-framing and falsification of evidence discernible in the volumes, would have little difficulty in seeing to it that any further "evidence" they choose to release (and particularly, the post-mortem X-rays and ~~photos~~ photos), comports with their lone-assassin bullshit. I'm sure you will agree that the resulting damage could be very considerable, and a serious ~~setback~~ setback to the cause of truth.

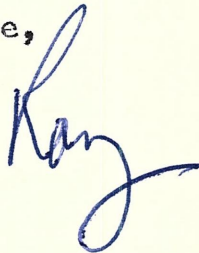
It's OK to include a demand for release of all suppressed data and evidence as part of a general demand for a thorough non-governmental investigation, but only when presenting proof at the same time that the lone-assassin theory is false. (the available Zapruder frames and the Oswald Life cover photo are the most devastating simple proof, of this I know).

Besides inviting serious difficulties, making refutation of the official case dependent on unreleased data is also to ~~it~~ divert attention from the plain fact that there is already many times more data available than necessary to blow the W.C.'s version to hell, and it cannot be resurrected by anything in the archives or ~~xxx~~ elsewhere.

At any rate, if Keating and Pike were quoted correctly, they are reaching for a booby trap that could explode in all of our faces. I'm going to write to Keating on this. If you agree, may I suggest that you do, too? Or, perhaps to Pike, in view of your rather strained relations with Ramparts.

I got a long thoughtful letter re my monograph from Ed Kern at Life. It's obvious from his letter that he has done considerable study in the volumes, as well as with the Zaprunder film. He asked me to keep in touch (apparently, a sincere and not merely a pro forma request). I haven't answered him yet, but I will in a few days. I will tell him about you when I do.

Love,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be the name 'Ray' written in a cursive, flowing style.