

31 October 1967

Dear Ray,

I appreciate your having let me know about Maggie's injury and I have, of course, sent her a note expressing my dismay at this misfortune. I am truly heartsick that she has had to endure so many hard blows in the last two years.

I am also grateful to Letha for what I understand was her spirited defense of me against a suggestion that I was in some kind of cahoots with RFK. Anyone who entertains such a notion might just as well believe George C. Thomson, or the hollowed-out knoll with fake trees. Or (afterthought) the Warren Report.

It seems I have become the villainess of the piece---not Mark Lane, who offers the public stress marks on the back of the Stemmons sign long after conceding privately that the marks are on the film, not the sign; or who attacks me with such righteous scorn for non-mention of a periodical whose name was consciously and carefully excluded from Rush to Judgment; and certainly NOT Garrison, with his codes and his quoting out of context and his campaign to implicate Oswald in the conspiracy and in clandestine sinister relationships with Ruby and Shaw, on the basis of evidence and testimony that threaten to invest the Commission's "facts" with undeserved dignity. I have already indicated, in the enclosed letter to Penn, the parallel that suggests itself. Another parallel is Eisenberg's complaint, when I pointed out a falsehood in the WR, that I was "intolerant."

It is hard to avoid the impression that anything-goes, in the crusade to discourage legitimate criticism of Garrison. I have been accused of lining up with the Establishment, I have been urged to maintain silence for the sake of "solidarity" even against the dictates of conscience, or when an unconscionable and outrageous attack has been made against my ethical standards by a "colleague" whose unscrupulousness is notorious; and I have been accused of some other beauties of delinquency, not to say treachery. ("What right do you have to criticize Garrison? You've never held public office!")

Well, I am resisting the temptation to invoke the well-worn cliché, about not needing enemies. But I did want to thank Letha for rejecting the thesis of my ulterior motivation. By the way, the New Orleans hypothesis about my anti-Garrison position does not link me to RFK but ascribes my views to resentment that the Garrison investigation will make my book "out of date." Which is almost as fanciful and equally malicious. There is really no mystery about my opposition to Garrison--for the benefit of the theorists, it is for exactly the same reasons as my war against the Warren Report. And I make absolutely no apology whatsoever, in either case.

As always,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Letha', written in a cursive style.