

December 28, 1965

Dear Sylvia Meagher:

It was so nice of you to write me. Vince has spoken of you over and over again; I feel almost familiar with your interest in the case and with your passionate convictions on the world condition in general.

Yes, I interviewed Mrs. Clemmons and I believe this interview was the basis for the Dorothy Kilgallen story. But how Miss Kilgallen got the story, I don't know. I was so sorry to hear of her death. A friend of mine in Texas (who might be right or wrong) feels it wasn't accidental. On the other hand, this is so hard to prove. According to my friend, Miss Kilgallen was the only reporter in the United States to have a LONE interview with Jack Ruby. I hadn't known that. The interview was apparently arranged ~~by~~ courtesy of Judge Joe Brown.

I was upset about William Whaley too. My husband and I tried to interview Mr. Whaley in August, 1964. On this occasion, we went to his place of business (and telephoned his home), but were told he was "on vacation." Now he is "on vacation" for good. What a pity. Mr. Whaley's comments on the line-up he witnessed and his description that Lee was wearing a blue jacket are interesting. I am also inclined to feel Mr. Whaley was right the first time about where he let Lee off, and wrong the second time--after the pressure was applied. The given background on his death sounds innocent enough, although his autopsy report was not given.

I am so happy you wrote to me. Sometimes I feel very isolated here. Vince has been a dear, good friend; his work on the case has been absolutely terrific and I hope he will continue with it and not grow discouraged. Those of you who can write and who have access to publication are the most important workers of all. The President and Lee Oswald would be proud of you.

I am asking all my friends this week to please read Schlesinger's 1000 DAYS. (Sorensen's KENNEDY is excellent, but a little dry). I am hoping so much that we on the left will see the transition in personality and character in RFK. I was happy to see RFK (quoted by Schlesinger) say in regard to the students who visited Cuba: "If I were 21, I'd be going with them." (This is not exact.) The Kennedys were moving (as fast as they dared) in the directions we wanted. As it was, the movement went too fast. He had to be killed. Yet I think Bobby is willing to take this risk. He is a brave man who will walk into anything and not look back. How many of us can say the same?

Please write again. I must apologize for this typing. My

typing is never good, but my main machine is broken, so I am using one that belongs to the girls. And I am not too accustomed to it.

Vince tells me you work with the UN. This must be marvelous. You are front and centre in excitement and activity. On top of this, you have involved yourself in this assassination-work. Didn't I see a letter from you in one of the magazines not too many months ago? I wrote to the magazine and asked them to thank you for your many efforts, but never saw my letter printed.

I am doing a letter (which I had to have printed) to Senator Monroney (D., Okla.) on the Vietnam war. I am supposed to pick these up Thursday. Will send you a copy when I get them. I convinced myself months ago that I'd stay out of the Vietnam controversy, since my main interest is the Oswald case. Still, there are low points that everyone reaches. I sit here reading and watching the news convinced that we are all gone mad. President Kennedy said that it would be easy to make decisions if it weren't for all the people who had never had a chance to live or to be born. Jackie said he believed that one man COULD make a difference, and that every man should try. Yet, Schlesinger describes him as aware that the entire historical picture was beyond the control of any one. As an innovator, he tried anyway. And was killed for it. In 1961, he told Nixon: "If I do the right kind of job, I don't know whether I am going to be here four years from now." Then he proceeded to alienate (in as gentle a way as possible) all the foggy-bottoms, Le May, White, Power, Mann, LBJ (on Diem and wheat to Russia), the right-wing fanatics, the left-wing fanatics, until what he said to Nixon came to pass. Harold Feldman once made me very angry by saying that "Kennedy made me miss Eisenhower." But of course if Kennedy had been an Eisenhower, he would still be here with us as Ike is. Until Harold Felman (poor, dear Harold, I am always using him as a whipping boy) sees this facet of the case, he will never understand the assassination.

At any rate, each of us "tries." This is about the extent of it. There is no use quitting now.

Sylvia, if you have written anything on the case that you are willing to show, let me see it? I won't show it to any one else if you say. I am so anxious to read everything, to get every point of view.

Our best wishes to you for the New Year.

Sincerely,
Shirley Martin
Box 566
Hominy, Oklahoma

cooking breakfast while typing -
my letters are always jam & cream.