

January 22, 1966

Sylvia,

*Received after  
telephone conversation  
2/11/66 -  
no reply needed*

I am going to make a copy of this so that I can remember what I've written. I hate to repeat myself, but this is what I do when I have no record of what I've said. Yes, the reconvening of the Warren Commission floored me when I read it in Allen & Scott. I have read them regularly since the early days when I learned that Allen was a close personal friend of Senator Russell. I wrote to Allen a few times; he and Russell shared the absolute conviction that Ruth Paine, for example, was a communist sympathizer at the very least. Strangely, this conviction tapered off, after many brave statements by Allen (to me) that Ruth Paine was going to be ~~f~~ grilled (by the Commission) within an inch of her life. Wonder when the saps found out she was on their side?

God! I get so bored with public people.

I will send a copy of your letter to Penn on Monday, when our law office here makes available the town's one and only photostat machine.

I am happy with Bill Crehan but I don't trust him. The caliber of your work is so high and so superior to most of the work being done by odd-balls (like me!) that I fully expect to see the government with someone on your tail. Use Crehan, but don't confide too much.

*Brown & Root has big contract now in S. Vietnam.*

Yes, one of the Brown Brothers died of natural causes. I think this is O.K. These industrialists do get old and die, much as they hate having to conform in this regard. Speaking of money-makers, I am interested in Simon's acquisition of Crucible stock. I think the Robert Morris (new President of Wheeling) is our old Edwin Walker-JBS friend. I'll check on that this week. When it comes to conspiracies, I rather fancy Buchanan's favorite, old H.L. himself.

I'll write to Penn and ask for copies of the Sauvage article.

Yes; I AM excited by the news about Ramparts. The letter from Welsh was a form type of thing to all of us and was in the nature of a feeler. I think his idea that he send representatives to talk to each of us is probably the best. There is just too much to say by letter, or article, or what-have-you. But I have heard it said in other times and other places that this or that magazine was going to do an expose of the WCR, only to have everything fall absolutely flat. I will believe it when and if I see it.

I will tell you frankly what I think about the De Mohrenschildts. Many moons ago (when I was first getting to know Vince), ~~he~~ I was told that Geroge and Pat Nash had checked the address (Dickens Street) where De M. allegedly hung his hat and found it to be a "depressed neighborhood." (This was in August, 1964, pre-WCR) Vince wrote me that this removed De. M. from the ranks of possible spy; he was too poor, said Vince, to be receiving government money. This was (in my opinion) the biggest horse's ass remark of the decade. I had just read Carre's SPY WHO CAME IN, etc., and I wasn't about to accept lofty pronouncements on high from either Vince or the Nashes. Besides, I, too, had been to Dickens Street and was hard put to imagine how two sociologists, allegedly in their right minds, could find this a "depressed neighborhood." Highland Park, where Dickens is, is a separate township from Dallas, but within the environs of Dallas. ~~It~~ is restricted to whites only, for example. The apartment house where De M. rented was not swanky, but neither was it a louse-trap. Actually, it was exactly what I would pick if I were De M. and wanting to keep a permanent unobtrusive address in Dallas while I cavorted in the Carribean.

Let's look at this Dickens Street address for a minute. Allegedly De M. had this address in April, 1963, when he bid aloha to Lee and Marina. If you will check with the Dallas operator you find that beloved George still has this address and the same phone number (Dickens address) he has had since April 1963. If you call this number you are referred to the Dallas Petroleum Club where a lovely Aussie lady takes all beloved George's calls and ~~xxx~~ literally strains her milk trying to find out your name, luv.

What does all this mean? Not a damn thing, except ~~xxx~~ if you call De M.'s former Dickens Street landlady, Mrs. J. H. Mayo, this dear lady (who is really a bitch) will tell you that George De M. hasn't had her apartment since spring of '63. In this case, why is it still listed in the book? Who knows. All Mrs. Mayo knows is that the apartment is rented to someone else, and has been all along. Mrs. Mayo also persists in referring to Lee as "a friend of Mr. De Mohrenschildt called Osborne."

Why doesn't Beloved George change his Dallas phone listing directly to the P. Club? Or can't this be done? Since his Emerson number originally went with the telephone in the Dickens Street apt., he must have had a new number put into the apartment so that he could keep the old one. Why all this backing and filing? Or when the Emerson number rings (and a recording comes on to refer the caller to the P. Club) does it ring in the apartment, which Mrs. Mayo now says is rented by someone else? I thought at one time I had linked a "hidden" number with Padgett Printers, and in this way had linked De M. and Padgett. I'm still not convinced there wasn't a link; but I can't prove it. Padgett's was where Lee tried to get a job, I think; it is also ~~x~~ on Industrial where I think a good bit of potential activity was planned for November 22nd.

The De M.s are government workers there is no doubt. What branch, how exclusively, these things I can't answer. Mrs. De M's testimony on the rifle is not worth the paper it's written on. Don't let it throw you. De M's remarks on the FBI were made by a man who was perfectly confident that he had the permission of either the FBI ~~for~~ a higher authority to say what he did. Lee Oswald was also working for some branch of the government, probably the same branch as De M. Lee Oswald was no more a Marxist than I am. Nor was he the assassin of President Kennedy.

Yes; I agree 100% about writing to the government for the WR items you mentioned. This is a terrific idea, but it should be done en masse. Can we organize our scattered forces enough to do this? I would be willing to type out a short request as you itemized, make as many copies as you think there would be signers, and mail out. Would our group be religious enough to sign and mail to Washington? People are so lazy, but I think if we sent the form letter and all they had to do was sign and remail, they could do this much. Form letters are never as effective as individual letters; still, it would be better than no reaction at all, I suppose. Let me know.

Yes, I've read the R. A. Taylor bit. I agree with you entirely on this, particularly in regard to the serial number on the weapon.

Lee's money: obvious attempt to avoid having to explain that the government paid Lee's way to Russia. Same reason for failure to produce income tax returns. Strange thing about Marguerite: she refuses to discuss this aspect. One other odd happening: one day I mentioned to her that I thought it strange that Lee contacted John Tower (R., Texas) from Russia when he wanted senatorial help to return to the U.S. Marguerite blew up at me. (This conversation was on the phone.) She REALLY told me off. Of all the stupid, inconsequential questions! How could I waste time talking about something as unimportant as this! Etc., etc. ~~Since~~ I

not Yachtman

was paying for the call and since I had mentioned it lightly in passing without trying to make an issue of it, I couldn't help wonder at her explosive reaction to what really was an inconsequential item.)

It is also interesting to me to read that Lee was planning on voting for John Connally as Governor of Texas if he (Lee) returned in time for same. Some Marxist this boy!

Oswald went to work (anew) for an agency ~~in~~ (NU) in October, 1962. From this point on, the repayment of government money was expedited. ~~Spies~~ really do have to repay money borrowed, for example. Since Lee was a very minor figment of somebody's cold war imagination, he was given the brush after returning from Russia; in order to get along, he went back to work. His first assignment was Dallas, at the printers. The NO coffee warehouse was a cover for checking on Alba. Alba is obviously a KKKer, he is also a gun salesman and a member of the NRA. The Dodd Committee make a point of examining men such as this. Notice how Lee tried to trap Alba, who didn't fall for it.

Marina of course, stayed blissfully unaware of all this. But really not blissfully unaware. Angry as I get at Marina, I keep in mind her age and the incredibly boring routine of her life. Having gone through some of these years (locked in a house year in and year out with small, usually sick, crying children), but having had a far higher standard of living than Marina had, I can sympathize with her. I don't agree she was a bitch or a slattern. I think she was tired, confused, lonely, ~~in poor~~ in poor health (anemia), thoroughly bored with her life, not fluent with the language, homesick on occasion, married to a man who was not too communicative, not too lovable, torn by mixed emotions (her duty to Junie who she really loved), her fondness for Lee and her need for him as the only stable point in a revolving world, and her human desire to use her youth while she had it, to have a few pretty things, to laugh with other young people, to smoke, to be a grown-up child). Oh, I have such sympathy for Marina. Strangely, I am aware that Lee did, too. Lee understood Marina far better than Porter ever will. Lee tried to help her when he could, folding diapers, loving the baby, mopping floors. He read in the bathroom nights to keep the ~~light~~ light from bothering her because he knew she needed her sleep. ~~Anyone~~ Anyone with incipient anemia, or actual anemia, needs more sleep than anyone else. Marina did not feed her family properly, due to general ignorance on ~~nutritional~~ nutrition, a shocking admission of gaps in the Russian educational system. Lee, on the other hand, had a grasp of nutrition; he fed himself far better than Marina fed herself or June. Poor nutrition, plus other emotional and physical factors, will tend inevitably to more fatigue, more crying jags (lack of B vitamin), irregular menses with consequent unexpected pregnancies, etc.; poor teeth, bleeding gums, etc. In short, Marina was a mess. In the spring of '63, learning she was unexpectedly pregnant, she treated suicide. Lee swatted her. In panic, he called for help. ~~Enter~~ Enter Ruth Paine. Lee, who did not genuinely love Marina, but who had married her by order, had a genuine compassion for this girl who was as he knew a cold war victim. No one knew better than he what a dirty deal she was getting all the way around. I think he worried about her a lot. Busy though he was, interested though he was in his own life, he felt genuine affection for her, I think, at the end. He may have loved her. I think he was a man with a great deal of honor. Old-fashioned word.

I don't think  
Alba was  
intimately  
involved;  
Alba focused  
shock,  
loaned  
money, etc.;  
but Lee was  
required  
to repay  
them.

At any rate, I think we will find at the end that Marina is one of the nicest people mixed up in all this, allowing of course for her very human nature which is flirtatious. (However, this is not yet a crime.) Remember, Marina DEFENDED Lee until he was dead. ("Lee good man. Lee no kill anyone. I love Lee.") Once Oswald was dead, Marina turned to the two babies as her prime concern. Alone in a strange country, not too conversant with the language, confused and betrayed by what she was being told about Ruth Paine, disgusted and dismayed by Marguerite Oswald's paranoid behavior, aware that her husband had been shot in the belly by a gangster while he (Lee) was handcuffed to what she thought was a representative of law and order, fully aware that the President of the UNited States, a man she thought was invulnerable, had had his head blown nearly off his shoulders in the street of her resident city, remembering all the rumors she had heard as a girl in Russia about the FBI, the CIA, the American imperialistic "dogs," what was she to do? Take one baby on her hip, this 22 year-old girl, and hold the other baby at her breast, and stand up in front of everyone screaming: "Lee is innocent. Lee is innocent?"

What would this have profited her? We don't know. We do know, I think, that Marina decided almost immediately after Lee's murder that she didn't want any gangster bullets pumped into her belly, or into June or Rachel either. If I had been Marina, I would have done the same thing. Marina may change. I think she is in the process of changing. She hardly grasps yet who or what Porter really is. At the end of her life, Marina may be a very cold and embittered old lady. But between November 22nd and November 24th, 1963, she did the RIGHT thing. This is all Lee would have asked of her. He would have been proud. I think he would have told her to do what she did: Take care of the babies. If, as a consequence, she "takes care of" herself, financially, this will rebound to her discredit finally. But it has no bearing on the young Russian girl of November 22nd.

I think we all know that if Marina ever gives the slightest sign of defending Lee again or of wanting to talk at length with anyone on the case, she will be a "suicide." She has the pattern for it. The stage was set with the Porter incident of ~~x~~ last August. Marina probably knows very well that she has to sit tight for life. I am asked again and again if I have contacted Marina. What a laugh. Marina would treat me very coldly; she would raise her plucked eyebrows and sneer: "So, YOU think Lee is innocent, do you? You fool." I haven't involved myself in this case for over two years just to waste time trying to talk to Marina.

The world situation is as expected this morning. Yesterday Russell announced (as we knew someone would one of these days) that it looked as though the peace offensive had failed. We will now have to "punish" North Vietnam, according to Russell. The old bastard. I am sorry for him; he is terribly ill with emphysema, but dear God! don't people ever learn compassion, even when they are about to die?

Alsop article in Sat. Eve. Post admits LBJ may be "mad;" but this is the price of "genius," says Alsop. Ho hum. Otten article in Wall St. Journal on Humphry very revealing. LBJ is no more interested in the plight of the Negro in America than R. Shelton is, except, of course, as it affects his (LBJ's) consensus. More Negroes than whites in Vietnam on percentage basis. I suspected this months ago. Kills two birds, breaks up racial tensions to some extent, employs unemployable Negroes. Oh boy.

Article on Goldberg in Sat. Eve. Post interesting. Written with tongue-in-cheek, I think. Love, S.