

Saturday 16 April 1966

Dear Shirley,

Just got the copy of your letter to Penn 4/14/66 together with his MM and your note to me on top...Yes, I do subscribe to the Midlothian and had already received this issue, but thanks for your thoughtfulness. One of the first pieces of testimony I read and always remembered was Thayer Waldo's description of Butler's disarray and the disappearance of his suave imperturbable manner on the morning of 11/24/63. I have included that in my chapter, or sub-chapter, together with an analysis of Butler's role in re the ex-sheriff Steve Guthrie bribery case, and the fact that the Commission seized on Butler's rather than Guthrie's statements in order to "conclude" that Ruby was not involved in the attempt to bribe Guthrie.

\*of the part of my manuscript that  
is devoted to Ruby

Not only did the Commission fail to obtain sworn testimony from Butler on that business but it failed to pay any attention to one of its own documents--CE 2887--in which a newspaperman reports that Butler told him that Ruby was involved in the Guthrie business. Incidentally, Butler seems to be the source of the absurd rumor that Oswald was the illegitimate offspring of Jack Ruby! (see CE 2249 page 41).

I am half-sympathetic to your added comments on RFK. In my late teens and maybe even my early 20s, I too was far more conservative--or far less informed--than I soon became, largely from being on the spot at the UN and seeing some realities, from 1947 onwards. Yes, everyone should be judged by what he is for as of today, and not necessarily by his misguided or naive beliefs in youth. Even professional politicians. I don't at all deny that they can experience enlightenment and maturation; but I have one reservation--and that is that sometimes the apparent changes-of-heart (ie, LBJ on civil rights) are pragmatic responses to the sentiment of the electorate rather than genuine "conversion." But I will maintain an open mind on the Kennedys, without letting myself become too bitterly disappointed if RFK or Teddy should accommodate themselves to the political realities, in the future. Incidentally, my blood almost boiled over about an hour ago when I was listening to the radio news and heard that Teddy Kennedy is kicking up a fuss about Newton Mott--charging that the autopsy report is not complete, asking for photographic evidence which he claims has been withheld by the Russians, and expressing dissatisfaction with the findings as a whole. How about his brother's autopsy report? photos and xrays? How about Warren's report? Is THAT "satisfactory"?

One thing in your note that does distress me is what you say about Staughton Lynd. I have had no personal contact with him at all but I have admired him very, very much for the last few years. If he is shifty, it will not be the first time that I suffer disillusion about someone on "my" side--though it never hurts less. I have already written, and more than once, of my rude awakening in re Mark Lane. Yes, the Kennedys could dedicate themselves to a dilettante's life of pleasure and self-gratification--but it is principle, or power, that motivates their public service? Or both? Shirley, don't be too idealistic, or you may get hurt.

Re Snyder's testimony about NOT informing the press re Oswald--see 11H 444, Priscilla Johnson's testimony, that McVickar told her about LHO and suggested she try to interview him, and see 5H 301, where McVickar mentions his contacts with Priscilla Johnson in re LHO.

Finally, Shirley: have you heard that Little Lynn (Karen Carlin) is DEAD? I don't know if it is true or not, but I had a call from one of my California friends last night, and she said that a secretary in someone's office mentioned that she had heard that on the radio. If you know anything about it, please let me know as soon as you can. With warm affection, as always,

PS My book (Subject Index) finally came out last Monday!