

9/6/66

Dear Shirley,

A brief report before I return to the dungeon--i.e., the office. I have been on leave for the last six weeks, a "vacation" in which I worked harder, I think, than any other time in my recollection. But since I was working on what really interests and absorbs me, it was, in a sense, extremely satisfying. Everything was on an up-curve until the last week, when there were some disappointments, on top of the disagreeable prospects of returning to a 9-to-6 routine.

Probably by now you have read all 4 of the books on the WR. They have certainly aroused a lot of interest in the papers, magazines, radio and TV. As you know, a local TV station taped a special documentary program last week with Penn, Sauvage, Lane, Weisberg vs Jacob Cohen, thought to be CIA and in any case a very obnoxious beast. So I finally got to meet Penn and L.A. We had dinner together on the night they arrived in NYC and saw each other again briefly the next day. Penn is exactly as I pictured him--a dear man, with many lurid stories and theories which, if only half of them are valid, are enough to make you resign from the human species in unbearable disgust.

You do get the Minority of One, don't you, Shirley? I had book reviews in the June and the July/August issues; and in the current September issue there is an excerpt from my manuscript, dealing with the Bogard affair. I'll be interested to know what you think of it. Sauvage, who has been very generous in praising my index and general knowledge of the H & E volumes, seems not to have liked any of my things in Minority of One--since he is no hypocrite, but, on the contrary, one of the people for whom I have really great respect, I am disheartened. After he read the Bogard piece, he asked, "Do you go into such detail on everything?" Well, I guess I do, on most things--it seems to me a necessary exercise, for when you do go into the evidence in that kind of detail, the WR takes on an even greater fraudulence than that which is apparent on larger questions such as marksmanship, autopsy findings, etc.

Random House called me a few weeks ago, extremely eager to look at my ms., about which they had heard from an acquaintance of mine who is doing a book for them on another subject. They sent for it by messenger, invited me to lunch the following week. But a few days later I heard that Liebler had been there to discuss writing a book on his experiences as a WR lawyer. I knew that would kill my chances, if nothing else did, so I was pretty well prepared when the lunch date was broken and a few days later the ms. returned, rejected. However, to be honest with myself and with you, I think they would have rejected it without Liebler getting into the picture--it is far too strong for Random House stomachs, as was Sauvage's book (they declined to publish it after entering into a contract, just let him keep the advance). Still, it was a blow of sorts...Meanwhile, I did a review of the 4 books on the WR for a magazine called Studies on the Left--I don't know yet whether or not they will accept it. But in the October Minority of One there will be a major chapter from my ms., on Oswald and the State Dept. Also, there may be something of mine in the December Esquire, which will carry an article by Epstein. Have been called by CBS News and by London Sunday Times for "background" on the WR.

What have you been doing, and thinking, now that the subject is suddenly being debated? I wonder and wonder where this thing is going, if anywhere. It won't die down, at least, not until after the Manchester book comes out next year--it is already causing quite a stir. And what do you think about the Russian ban of the WR? I think the NY Times built it up for their own self-interested reasons--i.e., to embarrass the critics by creating the illusion that challenges to the WR are Communist-inspired or supported. Well, THAT ought to separate the men from the boys! And of course Wm Buckley Jr. had to get into the act, too. By the way, where did you get the Joesten announcement that you sent me about a month ago? Did you decide to order his book? I am told another Ruby stripper came to a violent end, shot to death by her bridegroom of 12 days, in Omaha--Delilah, she was, real name Marilyn April Walle. Any connection? I wonder. Much love and please write. SYLVIA