

October 24, 1966

Sylvia: What did you think of the RAMPARTS presentation? Penn called night before last; I think he is on his way to Washington today to be on the Cronkite show tonight; and from there he plans to go to NY and Boston. He said he would be in touch with you. I talked to an Oklahoma City reporter yesterday who said he would do some research for me on the Ruby-Butler link. Do you have anything more on the Tippit-narcotics allegation aside from the remark made by Dullès to Curry? Don't you think Bill Turner's investigation of Tippit at the gas station just prior to his death is interesting? Turner was here for a day and night last month fresh from his investigation of this. It strengthens my feeling that a number of people were tailing Lee that day. I think Lee had been under surveillance all that week and on the day of the assassination. It may have been someone's job to keep him out of sight as the President went past. I am still concerned about Dougherty; his presence on the fifth floor with Baker is extremely significant, I think; but the Commission didn't touch it. Dougherty, as you know, got to the TSBDB over an hour before anyone else that morning (as he was in charge of the boilers or something). What an ideal time to prepare a paper bag or to hide a certain rifle. Truly's description of Dougherty has always intrigued me; what a right-wing type a man like that could make! Did you know Tippit's mother is in Oklahoma City? If you had a chance to talk to her, can you think of anything in particular you would like to ask? I see in the NY Times that Deirdre Griswold is in jail. Do you know her? She and I disagree on the Kennedys, but I admire her spirit nonetheless. Sylvia, do you have any idea when the voice segment (Kennedy's) was recorded for the tv series PROFILES IN COURAGE?

Let me hear from you when you have a chance. I know how hellishly busy you are. Still, you and Penn are doing a service for all of us by keeping this case before the public, a most important job after nearly three years of being ignored and treated like mental cases! Much love, S.

It seems pretty well established that the Kennedys have the X-rays and films. The Gore Vidal story is a good one, but I wonder how much Jackie would confide in him in spite of the tenuous family relationship. Vidal has been out of grace with Jackie for a number of years now; nor did he endear himself in '64 by working for Keating. (I have come across other examples of Vidal's "art"; he once told the story that RFK protested Newman's doing the voice for De Antonio's POINT OF ORDER. It turned out no voice was needed, but the story is another useful one in the I-hate-Bobby because he was a defender of McCarthy legend. The strange thing was that in

conversation with De Antonio I found him as ardent an admirer of John Lindsey as he was a detester of RFK. How easily we pick and choose our way through life, basing our likes and dislikes on personal treatment received from our heroes or villains! How in the world could anyone, making a political decision, admire Lindsey and hate RFK? I think I am getting to the point where I don't care anymore.

Kennedy's speech yesterday at Berkeley is already catching him all kinds of hell here in Oklahoma--and I dread to see tomorrow's Dallas Morning News! On the other hand, the Leftist magazines will kick him in the ass because he did not go far enough their way. I am glad I'm not in politics!

I'm enclosing the letter on Indonesia only because it represents my cynicism in the face of nearly everything and everyone. I am so tired of orgies of blood and vengeance--yet it seems to me the so-called "free" world is more guilty of this than the other. This may be because the "free" world is older and because it is dying. A dying way of life has more to lose than one that is tally-hoing it all over the place. But give us 6,000 years of socialism and we will have big ~~pink~~ piles of shit, too. We were talking once about art found in Elephant Caves in India. Someone said ecstatically: "Man left his record there for us." And someone else spoke up: "And many piles of poop." The many piles of poop left by the giant mammals may in the long run be the only something of value this planet has to show. At least you can grow tomatoes in it.