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Received
11/9/66

Sylvia: Thanks for your kind words on my letter to CBS. Actually I have no other copies, but I did send one to Harold Feldman and Penn.

Mama O. just called. She says it has been six months since we talked, so I'll take her word for it. She was in a stew about Ruth Paine and wanted me to ask Ruth something. I ~~was~~ called Irving but Ruth was "teaching." Michael answered, but I hung up while he was gasping: "Who's calling? Who's calling?" The funny thing was that contrary to usual I called without making it person to person. Therefore he couldn't have known it was long distance. But he was so intensely curious. Isn't Ruth expected to have girl friends call for bridge parties, etc.? My husband ~~never~~ acts that way when someone calls whose voice he doesn't recognize. No, the Paines are always "on"--one way or another.

Postcard from Penn with nude on front. I wrote him paraphrasing Lee, saying some one had obviously superimposed someone else's head on my body! Really, he is a nut. My Methodist postmaster had a low opinion of Catholics already! Penn said something about being on the Mort Sol show. Will you get to see it or hear it?

I wish I felt as optimistic as you about the X-rays and films. Did you hear LBJ's press conferece remarks in this regard? Either he is playing dumb or ~~really~~ truly knows nothing about the case. His remarks were so simple minded. He remarked that pictures of the bloody clothing ~~had been~~ ^{WERE + SHOULD HAVE BEEN} withheld--but of course they ~~were~~ were not, but have been in the books all along. He also said that the X-rays and films had been in the Archives all along. Mama O. was vicious against the Kennedys this morning--as usual. She hates them so very, very much. She hasn't nearly the hatred for any other political person. But she has a strong anti-Catholic bias which may account for it. Her feeling is that the Kennedys have no right to keep these pictures from the public; that the pictures (and X-rays) belong to the "people." But you know the pictures actually BELONG to the Kennedys--just as pictures taken of you with your head smashed in would belong to your relatives--and not to the magazines and newspapers. Still, when I tried to reason with her that this was the case, but that in spite of this personal ownership the Kennedys had nevertheless turned the pictures over to the Archives and eventually (after John-John and Caroline's death) the "people", she would have none of it. On top of this, she feels that only Jackie Kennedy is involved. Everything is "Jackie this" and "Jackie that." Oh, how hard it is to be patient with her. She insulted all of us, Harold, Mark Lane, Vince, Penn (she HATES Penn), etc.--and you, too. When I asked her if she had read your really perfect article on Oswald and State, she replied (I had sent her one copy of my letter on your letter): "Oh, yes. And it was very good." But she left out the really important things. If she would come to me, she would do a lot better." Oh, brother. Quelle femme.

We surely need someone in our group to see those films and X-rays. I wish we could petition some way so that Vince could. He is the original worker on the shots. Do you suppose we could appeal to Robert Kennedy to let Vince in? I know you think I am being hopelessly naive--and perhaps I am. Please let me hear what the general thinking is on all this in the East. I am most anxious. Much love, S.

Mama O. is really irritating. She told me that when Manchester interviewed her he wanted the name of a certain person to research. (I think she mentions this in MOTHER IN HISTORY.) Every once in awhile when she seems in a good mood, I slip in the query: Who was that Manchester was interested in? But she always get holier-than-thou and says: This was a confidential exchange between Mr. Manchester and me. Of course, I would reveal it under oath on the witness stand, etc., but I would never tell you. Yet when I tell her I cannot comment on something Mark Lane told me, she blows up and says I am just like all the rest, against her, not wanting to help, etc. Mama is convinced that was NOT Lee in Whaley's taxi and NOT Lee who ran into Roberts' presence at the rooming house. Mama says this is why Roberts and Whaley are dead. I send it for what it is worth. I suppose I had better ask you to hold her crazy ravings in confidence. Though this be madness, etc.

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