

January 29, 1967

Sylvia:

Well, I saw the little piece in the Dallas papers about Mama. Actually what she said (as reported) made good sense; on the other hand she had better get accustomed to vilification. Being a "mover of bodies and a shifter of bedpans" is an unkind connotation, but it isn't libelous in my opinion. This is hardly the point of the errors in Manchester's book. Will it look different in its entirety? No; because the circumstantial evidence (Manchester admits this is the sum of the case against Oswald) used by him to pin Lee was all from the Report. I don't think Manchester looked into the 26 volumes once. I understand how busy he must have been --and if he had wanted to leave the wording ambiguous, I would have been satisfied. But to outright put thoughts into a man's head, to say this or that was the instant he went insane, to depend on the brown paper bag story, the Givens story, the many story contradicted by the testimony, and then to top it all off ~~to say~~ (as Manchester said in his forward printed in the NY Times) that he knew more about the case than anyone is to insult the intelligence of everyone of us who has spent over three years on the facts of this case. *Ray says*

Still, you and I don't have to describe Manchester and his work to each other. It was a disappointment; the descriptions given Manchester of the political situation by those who had been at the scene are accurate in my opinion. Even I knew something about the tense Connally-LBJ-Yarborough situation before November 22, 1963--but to find his loose-jointed, incredibly asinine acceptance of the silly points such as the bag, etc., points we have been fighting for three years with apparently no success to gather from Manchester's addled acceptance of same, is to feel deep disappointment indeed. Never mind. We will recover.

I also see in the papers that BBC is having a 4½ hour show on the assassination story today (January 29th); maybe we will get a little encouragement from this. I have been told that Schiller is hard on Mark Lane's trail, trying to track down a witness in Oregon to use against Mark. I sent Lane a wire yesterday before I read that he was in London. I am assuming, of course, that he feels the way we feel about Schiller.

Spent yesterday re-reading Graf's and Ofstein's testimony. There are so many points I want to make, but it is so difficult in a letter. That's why a visit is helpful; on the other hand, I always feel you have the same thoughts I do about this part and that and so there is no need to discuss them. I was puzzled by the to-do both Graf and Ofstein made about Lee being so incompetent he had to be fired, and to prove this they both commented on the fact that he never got Saturday overtime work, as only the real swingers got to put in overtime. But didn't Lee work nearly EVERY Saturday at ~~Swaggars~~-Chiles and Stovall? I haven't had a chance to check back on the exhibits (his work sheets) yet, but as I recall he worked nearly every Saturday. This negates completely Graf and Ofstein's silly story about being fired for incompetency. Of course we know why Lee was fired; thus these good gentlemen had to have some kind of cover-up for their shocking prejudices. Wasn't Ofstein cute claiming to be fearful for his security clearance and yet at the same time admitting that knowing Oswald's background he still invited Lee and Marina to his house? That was obviously a suggestion by the security agent (army?) he mentioned. And of course this jerk checked with the FBI, but there was no admittance of this by Hosty and Co.

Have been re-reading Sauvage's book. Every month or two I re-read one of the investigator-authors to get a fresh slant on their thinking. By that time I have read more, thought more; my thinking, hopefully, having matured some, so that this re-reading is very useful. I find the most sensible statement in Sauvages book to be his remark that the killing of Kennedy and the Killing of Oswald were not necessarily accomplished by the same source. I am also more and more inclined to feel that Lee may not have seen that Carcano ^{was} after ordering it.

In addition, I have practically convinced myself (by using the 26 volumes) that Lee WAS on the first floor at 12 as he claimed. Did you notice (of course) that without those poor Negro witnesses to back up their contrived story, both the Dallas police and the FBI would have their asses out in the cold? Reminds me a little of the 11 Negro men and one white woman who are the Baker jurors. Of course the verdict isn't in yet--we may all get a surprise as we did in the original Ruby trial--but what would the crooks do without the Negroes to intimidate and pressure? And who among the Liberal crowd is ever going to be so vulgar as to suggest that a Negro can be pressured, bought or frightened half to death?

I've got to close. The girls and I are going to a movie and I have just been told they're ready. We will see a movie and have a pizza; this is our usual Sunday routine. Oh, I had my first call from the local news. Channel 6 came by the house and wanted to televize me and discuss my comments on the Capitol Record, but I declined, telling them I was much in the mood of John F. Kennedy who, after Caroline had been getting too much publicity, told Jackie it was "time to retire Caroline." After the Capitol Record and the NY World Telegram article, I no longer have any faith in newsmen. (Did I ever?) Perhaps what I want to say is that I am too stupid to handle them. I haven't seen the World-Telegram article yet but LA says it is bad. Apparently much to-do is made over my names for my dogs (and one cat), four of whom have been named for fellow investigators. But as I told LA, I love my friends, and I love my dogs.

1. Jonsie (for Jones Harris)
2. Annelise (for Mark's lovely wife)
3. Harold (a cat, deceased) for Harold Feldman
4. Vince (for Vince Salandria)

(We also have a Titty-Lane which we named in honor of an imaginary Jack Ruby dancer, the little dog having had many puppies before we got her at SPCA and being amply endowed in the multiple bosoms. We told Mark Lane last March that actually we were thinking of him in the last name, but that if this carried through properly, the connotation didn't fit. Annelise laughed. Thank God! I didn't tell this story to Schiller and Lewis. Lewis said to me: You have 12 dogs! Please name them all. I asked him if he didn't have anything better to do, but he insisted. I realize now this is the way they work. Thus I panicked yesterday when I heard that Schiller was digging deep into Mexico and Oregon to try to trip Mark up. God! I despise people like this.)

Vickie is grabbing dogs off my lap and putting them away in bathrooms, so I guess it is time to leave. I can't find my shoes. I think I have only one pair at the moment.

Sylvia, is there any way I can help you in research, etc? Although I imagine most of your work is done. I feel we are making strides and rather than feeling discouraged, I think things are moving well.

One thing LA and I agreed on on the telephone the other night: we are welded together in spirit more than ever. Let's have at the bastards.

MUCH, much love,
S.