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I asked Harold to send me the Castorr tape. If he does, I will mail it to you after I hear it. For God's sake, don't tell him. I really hate to do these things. On the other hand, it hardly seems a state secret. He would send it to you too if you asked. Still, this will be the first time I have betrayed a confidence, if we want to look at it this way. I feel, however, that the risk of swallowing Harold's story on Castorr is too great to ignore.

Sylvia: Yes, I am shocked by Harold's reaction to Castorr. Not that Castorr is necessarily significant. Still, it is obvious that he is the Caster-Castor referred to in the depositions. When I talked to Walker's secretary, she didn't even hesitate. She knew immediately who I meant, where he was living and working (Washington) at the time of my call. I sent the information to everyone I knew, but Harold really ~~is~~ gobbled it up. He was as busy as a beaver for awhile trying to get Castorr to see him. Now he comes up with his latest, in addition to stating that not only doesn't he believe Castorr is Caster-Castor, but that the Castorr he knows gives no evidence of right wing interests.

The article you mentioned in the NATION is even more evidence that this is the man. Can any one of us imagine that a man like this who would take a trip to South Africa for the reasons he did and who was a personal friend of Walker's would really be anything but a right-winger? The only thing I can think is that Harold is trying to make an idiot out of me for some reason. But that seems a waste of time. What in the hell would he do that for. (I'm enclosing his letter. Send it back when you are through.)

Oh, Sylvia, everybody is so greedy. Is Harold really this interested in money? What you said is RIGHT! "LIFE is a graveyard for evidence proving the fraudulence of the WR." I was really dismayed about Harold's working with LIFE.

Glad to hear about you and Vince. No one can really ever stay ~~mad~~ mad at a man like Vince who is probably as dedicated a humanist as I know. He has his ~~faults~~ faults and his weaknesses (don't we all) and there have been times when he has NOT remained true to his dedication; still, neither have I. I drift from year to year, telling myself that next year I really will start being honest with myself. But Vince is very dear to me, which I don't think he believes. He has had great trials (I don't know if you know the story about his wife's surgeries); and his treatment of Livie has been almost unbearably beautiful. Even if he does nothing else in his life, this will save him. (I think there are single moments in the lives of each of us where the "razor's edge" to salvation is crossed or lost. I think Kennedy's came in the water during the war when this rich intelligent boy said to his men: "You decide if you want to take that much of a risk (go in a certain direction near the enemy area); you people are married; I've got nothing to lose." I think Vince's moment of salvation came in regard to Livy when he stayed by her bed and talked for her. I'll never forget this.) So I love the little bastard. But there are times when I could slap him HARD.

Sylvia, we are all bound to get on one another's nerves. I realize how frustrating I must be to all of you with my dreadful typing, with my rank amateurism, no education and blind faith in the Kennedys and God. (HA!) Still, in the long run or at least when the important moments close in I think we would be more valuable to one another than the establishment crowd. At any rate, this is why I was so upset about Harold W. Please let me know what Vince thinks about Garrison when he (Vince) gets back.

Much love, S.

O.K. I am calmer now. Here is Harold's explanation. This seems a more reasonable statement than the one he made concerning Castorr previously. I should have been more patient. Send this back too, if you will, Sylvia. And please don't ever tell him that I have sent his letters to you. This is the first time that I have done this (crossed correspondence); it isn't ~~particularly~~ particularly admirable, but I was so upset about the Castorr-Caster-Castor thing that I followed my worst impulse! Needless to say, I sent it to no one but you. Because in the back of my feeble mind I always seem to have more confidence in you than in the others. This is probably just conditioning. Over the years I have learned that men are far more gossipy than the woman I have known! (Perhaps not than women in general, but certainly more gossipy than the woman I have known.)

At any rate, sensitive as Harold is, he would despise us both if he thought we were conspiring against him--as if anything could be further from the truth! Don't you wish sometime that we could all get together and agree to get along. Still, I think we do better than other like groups in history. Perhaps it is because we are for the most part separated from each other for long spells. If we all lived in the same city, I imagine the fur would fly.

Your mention that you worried over plagiarism charges when you read Harold's ms and then related it to what you had already written is understandable. But we are all working on the SAME ASSASSINATION STORY. It is going to be natural that we have like ideas and have them independent of one another. I can't imagine anyone seriously thinking that X stole from him the idea that the Dallas police were sons of bitches! This is a conclusion that has to come to anyone investigating the assassination. So stop worrying. If Harold ever thought that you were stealing from him I'd paddle his backside. And to hell with his claims and boasts. The people who really know this case, know what each person has done. (For example, Vince has not gotten proper credit for his work, or Harold Feldman for his. Penn got much more publicity and for less real achievement in my opinion--although if Penn's work on Bogard is for real than this justifies a great deal.)

We will weather the storm. By the way, did you see the item on Kennedy's Addison's disease? Not that this is so significant (the WC Hearings mentions this), but it does indicate that we may get some conversation in this regard in the next few months.

I must run to get this in the mail. I want two copies of your book (and I won't take them if you send them free; I won't.). There is a lawyer here who accepts the Report so blindly. He drives me mad. I can't understand such people. He says we are dishonoring the memory of Kennedy with our campaign. Imagine! Kennedy would never say that.
Love, S.