

7/27/67

Sylvia: You know I understand about the work. Besides, I like to think we are involved in a common cause which doesn't depend entirely on chit-chat, or equalling one another in letter output.

The enclosed clipping is for Deirdre if you see her. I have just gotten off the phone after 20 minutes of trying to locate Mrs. Weissman. There isn't anything I can do for her except to offer friendship; however, according to the police station (Lawton), the Constitution (Lawton paper), and City Hall, she is no longer in the city. I was told that someone from Norman had taken her out of jail and that she failed to appear on a \$20 bail. The lady at the police department replied (when I asked where Mrs. Weissman was): "I don't know and I don't want to know." What a disgusting rightwing state this is. I will be glad to get out of it. At any rate, please tell Deirdre that I tried to locate Mrs. Weissman who is, I am assuming, a friend of hers. If I hear anything further, I will do what I can. I wish I had known about the anti-Viet rally in Norman; I would have gone.

Got a card from Thayer this morning from Spain ^{on which} ~~where~~ he says he has gone ^{there} "on assignment from Ramparts." Lucky bastard. Spain is a country I dream about; I try to wipe Franco out of my mind and just think about the countryside and the music. I will be anxious to hear more from him; I hope he works well with Ramparts. He has talent, but has never stuck long enough anywhere to give his talent a ~~try~~ try out.

Sylvia, the tape on Castorr began with an injunction (a promise) not to reveal parts of it without Castorr's permission. Harold sent it to me because of my interest in the Colonel; I think it is an important tape in many ways and I'm ^{sure} Harold will follow up on it. I feel so damn guilty about things, but I suppose I had better do as I promised. I am weak enough already without breaking my word on things in the case. What I have never understood is WHY anything has to be hush-hush. We are all in this together and working towards the same goal.

Yes; the police log was definitely tampered with, just as so much of the other evidence was rigged and re-arranged. The important question is: why? If the accidents were not important why pull the evidence of them out? I told Vince years ago ~~the Tippet~~ that Tippet was on an accident report, and that coincidences must not be overlooked in ^(can) search for a tight, coherent case. But Vince never ^{paid} any attention to me. Besides this, I sent the same argument to Mark Lane years ago (through Mike Lester), but he did not find it interesting either. If I am ever bitter, it is over small things like this. (By the same token, I have been trying to convince people over the past two years that Oswald was tied in ⁱⁿ some way with IRS's Alcohol And Tobacco tax division ~~the~~ branch that investigates violations of the National Firearms Act, but can not get an audience on this. IRS's ATT keeps contraband weapons of all kinds in a vault on Commerce Street. ~~They~~ These weapons are kept ~~up~~ up to ten years before they are destroyed under government supervision at Refinery Casting. I think this is where the 6.5 came from. Needless to say, I am probably wrong.)

As you know, I am also very interested in the epileptic on Houston, but this examination seems to have died a painless death. The interesting thing ~~to~~ to me was the accent the witnesses put on this incident, as though the whole performance ~~smacked~~ smacked of the Marx brothers or something.

I am sick at heart over the Vizard murder in Austin. Here (in my opinion) is another "Accessories After The Fact" incident. I think the police got the grocery store owner to ~~xxx~~ claim that money was missing, so that the murder could be passed off as a crime of robbery; rather than ^{as} a political one. Poor young man.

My lawyer just called. The case has been postponed for awhile because one of the lawyers on the other side got into a fight with the Judge who was to hear the case. The Judge accused this lawyer of "telling an untruth." Oh, mercy! All my illusions are shattered. Great balls of a duck!

HUAC says this morning that riots are the work of subversives. We are now in for a deluge of "We didn't do it; it was George." ~~thing~~ thing that really bugs me is how much like all the world am I? Which way will I finally ~~go~~ go? And when I do decide, will it make any difference? (It won't.) The only catharsis might be to find oneself suddenly transported (teleported?) into the heart of Vietnam where the hands hanging on the arms could be used to bandage up a child. Aside from this, the whole business is a Black-Ass pile of shit. (To paraphrase Hemmingway.)

I was touched by the comments of a hippie on Christ. Some of the hippies call him "J.C." and ~~have~~ have a real affection for him. I have idealized him so myself; I wonder if I would be disappointed?

Still angry at RFK and planning a letter to tell him so. He has always been very good about criticism. I don't say it changes him, but he is always polite and seemingly glad to get it. What a character. I am certainly confused about his endorsement of Sheridan, except, as I said, in the context of friendship.

Manchester's remarks about MacNeil having talked to Oswald at 12:33pm has me so furious I can't see straight. On the other hand, it could be just another Manchester mistake, to be denied in time. I wrote to Manchester, but received no answer. Harold W. said I wouldn't.

* Did I ask you if you have the quotes from THERE WAS A PRESIDENT? If you want them, I will send them. I think they are valuable, and they are from NBC tapes, so can be verified. You can get this book at the library of course, but I would be glad to save you the time. Poignant to me was Allan Tippit's remark that his father, J.D., always wanted to be more than a policeman. Did I mention to you the remark made to me by Mrs. Tice that Tippit and Marie were furious fighters? (Mrs. Tice had a relative who lived across the street from the Tippits at the time.) Tippit had bought, or was buying, a diamond ring for Marie, allegedly after a good beating he ~~gave~~ gave her, as a peace offering, I suppose.

Again, please don't worry about not writing. The pressure will be off you after a few months--and then on again in another form. But work is the best thing there is. ~~When I hear from Thayer I am going to have him see you in NY; I would like to see him too, but Oklahoma is so far out of the way. How I love to talk to all of you about the case, but except for letters, never get the chance. Have not heard from Penn. Guess he is still angry at me. Actually, I love him as much as ever, but men will never understand that there is a time and place for their problems (even when these problems have to do with the case), and that women occasionally have problems of their own. Fortunately I am not crushed by my recent circumstance; if anything, pleased. But Penn didn't know this. Men. Oh, my.~~ When I hear from Thayer I am going to have him see you in NY; I would like to see him too, but Oklahoma is so far out of the way. How I love to talk to all of you about the case, but except for letters, never get the chance. Have not heard from Penn. Guess he is still angry at me. Actually, I love him as much as ever, but men will never understand that there is a time and place for their problems (even when these problems have to do with the case), and that women occasionally have problems of their own. Fortunately I am not crushed by my recent circumstance; if anything, pleased. But Penn didn't know this. Men. Oh, my.

Sylvia, write when you can. And let me know how Maggie is. Is she still working on the case? I worry about her, and want her back in action as soon as possible. We need all the hands we can on deck for the next few years.

Much, much love,
S.

Finally, as a touch of hope and irony, I must include the following:

MacNeil: This is not a simple story: Oswald was not a simple man. Though charged with the assassination of President Kennedy, he died--technically--an innocent man. But unless something extraordinary happens--again--history will hold him guilty. (Accent mine.)

Someone should write a book and call it: Something Extraordinary Has Happened!

Harold, thank you for the letter. I will tell Sylvia you are going to see her. Your tape is on top of the icebox waiting for me to get to the Post Office. I should have taped a copy but did not have a chance to get another machine. Very few of my friends have tape recorders here in Tulsa! Will dig through "files" for newspaper item on Honest Joe as executor of Ruby estate in three-way deal with two other Dallas men. However, this is sound enough if you want to use somewhere as it was printed in paper. I realize you need date. Will see if I have NEWSWEEK still with O'Donnell's fink letter. I may have thrown it out. I don't object to O'Donnell keeping quiet; God knows! I don't expect him to attack Texas, Dallas and Texans of the LBJ-brand. On the other hand, after the indignities he and Mrs. Kennedy suffered at the hands of that rightwing, Kennedy-hating son-of-a-bitch Rose, how in the hell can it deliberately write to a magazine and offer a glorious defense for Texas, Texans, Dallasites, etc.? Why not keep quiet? My God, it made me angrier than anything in a long time.

Must close. I am exhausted with this damn machine(considering I use only two fingers for all typing!) Much love to all, S.