

8/8/67

Sylvia: I will make this very brief as I have just had a rush note from Thayer asking me to write to Carmela; she is very blue he says. I am always glad to do this. I thought of you when you wrote on your birthday, (close to Vickie's, Jackie Kennedy's and Mama O.'s); if there is anything I understand it is <sup>being</sup> lonely and blue. I had lots of times like those in my younger days. But you were right to give yourself a figurative kick; you have accomplished so much. The girls could not believe you ~~were~~ are not a college graduate. Your level of expression, your brilliant punctuation (a fetish of Somerset Maugham), your spelling, I real don't know how you do it. At any rate, your letter gave great encouragement to Vickie, who doesn't think now she will get to college. (Mark refuses to consider sending her; instead she is now having to work to help keep his two younger children going. Mark is not broke by any means, but has decided that family life is not for him. The case comes to court on the 31st. I will let you know what the judge has to say. Actually this is a terrible state for a divorce from a woman's point of view; in addition the judge is allegedly a man-favorer. Oh, well, I will have to ride with the universe for awhile and not agitate too much. I have always tried to live by the biblical injunction: Sufficient unto the day, etc.)

The headline, front-page news is very interesting this week. It looks as though the liberals have finally had enough and are beginning to take a stand. My opinion is that it is too late but I certainly hope I am wrong. At any rate, you and I don't need to discuss this as I am sure by now how close we are in our thinking on all this.

Yes; RFK pained me deeply. I still wait to see what could be the possible reason. If he is playing a truly desperate game, then I am sure his excuses will be valid. God knows, I will rush to forgive him if this is the case. I can't think of anyone who shouldn't be forgiven in the long run.

The enclosed letter is the whole point of this communication. The name "Victoria Harris" was chosen to use in dealing with Dallas citizens who may have had contact with Schiller and Lewis and thereby possibly recognize the "Shirley Martin." (It turned out that Allman had talked to Schiller and had listened to "Controversy.") During our phone conversation (as I think I already told you) Allman mentioned that he had seen Bob Jackson at the top of the knoll. After I hungup, I went to the volumes and re-read Jackson's testimony. Lo and behold, what Jackson says he did is entirely contrary to what Allman says Jackson did. (This is also the case with Aynesworth whose actions after the assassination do not fit with his actions as related by Robertson.) Now why would either Allman or Jackson be confused in what looks like a piece of minutiae? (But if we don't deal with everything, who will?) I think what happened was that Jackson had no more inclination immediately after the shots were fired that the rifle was in the building than I had! I think Jackson, along with nearly everyone else made the immediate assumption that the shots had come from the knoll. So Jackson, along with Allman, ran to the damn knoll. (Jackson and Allman were not strangers, of course. Allman's identification is a positive identification. He knew Bob Jackson; they were fellow Dallas "journalists." Ugh.)

Notice in Jackson's testimony that he remembers seeing a rifle pointing out of the sixth floor window at the time the shots were fired! Now, if we can keep a straight face through this, we are going to assume that Jackson saw a rifle sticking out of the TSBDB window at the time of the assassination and yet immediately after the assassination he ran to the blasted knoll! (The only back-up for Jackson's final allegation is the Decker Exhibit listed in your INDEX. However, this could conceivably have been written up long afterwards. The wording of the notation, however, indicates it was written on Nov 22.)

Jackson is also alleged to have cried out: "There is the gun." (This reminds me of that poor ~~knoll~~ soul, Mrs. Cabell, who remembered in "Controversy" that she cried out: "Earl, it's a gun," yet, in her testimony under oath to the Commission stated only that she said: "Earl, those are shots." There IS a difference.) When Jackson is asked by Ford if anyone else in the car would remember him (Jackson) saying: "There is the gun?" Jackson replied: "I don't know whether they would remember it or not." (Why not ask them?)

Here again we are playing against human nature, from my point of view. There were at least 5 occupants in that particular car, among them Jim Underwood, Tom Dillard, and other news media personnel from Dallas. Jackson's testimony was not taken until March, 1964: Do they

mean to tell me that not once in the ensuing four months (Nov 22 to March '64) did Jackson run into Dillard or Underwood and say: "Well, I saw it (the rifle) first." Surely there would have been some exchange, some common scuttlebut between these regular Dallas newsmen in regard to Jackson strangled cry of identification (of the rifle)! But apparently there was not; because Jackson in March cannot think of anyone who was in the car at that time who would definitively remember his call.

So where are we. Actually nowhere very significant. This is another in the long chain of seemingly inconsequential contradictions, etc., between the sworn testimony in the Hearings and the actual events as they happened. Nine tenths of these inconsistencies are going to be traced to human error; of the other tenth, one half of these will be just plain old human pride and expedience. But there is still going to be a relatively sizeable portion that needs following up on.

It does seem to me, however, that both Jackson and ~~Aynesworth~~ Robertson committed perjury in order to keep certain testimony from being received. Jackson because he could not bear to appear so foolish or so contrived. Robertson at the request of Aynesworth. And Aynesworth, of course, did not testify at the request of the FBI who in turn negated his existence at the request of the Dallas police.

Did you see Mama O's recent attempt to get the Texas Civil Liberties to protect her; of course, they would not. They are a bunch of uselesss bums. Everytime Humphrey breaks wind in or around Fort Worth, the Fort Worth police put a steady tail on Mama. This absolutely drives her wild, and no wonder. Why should she be harrassed in this way? Is there a regular surveillance put on Mrs. Whitman or Mrs. Speck?

Did I mention to you that it looks as though Batchelder is on his way out as police chief, and that King will succeed him. Two Dallas policemen suspended for beating up a Negro prisoner last week; one homicide detective also suspended for like reason. Names not familiar.

Gen. Walker was here last week sharing speaking platform with Gov. Maddox. Sylvia, do you have any background on man who owns book building by name of Byrd or Bird? Have latched on to a Colonel by this name who is heavy heavy with Dallas rightwing, Walker crowd, etc. Will attempt to trace and see if there is a link if you have anything on building owner. Is there anything in Archives on Campbell testimony? By the way, Jackson says he talked to FBI on Sat. (Nov 23); do you know where this deposition is?

Must get to Carmela. Thayer is having a ball. Letter very gay, full of bubbles--and so is he most of the time! What a pocket edition of Hemingway he is. Almost a lost type, rare nowadays. Still insists I not write until he has a more permanent address. But this warning is due to his having made new scathing attack on Catholic Church and knows I will sizzle him in return. Seriously ~~xxx~~ I can take anything dished out about the Church because I am not a defender of its sins, but Thayer is always so busy trying to turn everyone into a hedonist. (Is that the right word? God knows, what I said.) He writes that his article on Spain will be in the Oct. RAMPARTS. I will look forward to seeing it. He is an excellent writer, much like Vincent Shean (sp.?). It was Vincent Shean who gave me my first interest in the world (Personal History), and who by the way made the entire Middle East (Arab-Zionist mess) clear to me.

Please return the Allman letter (with his notes). I might as well keep it. Did I make it clear in my last letter that Jackson testified he never left the car? I can't remember. At any rate, Allman insists Jackson did. The entire Allman-Oswald incident still has me puzzled. Allman says he did not notice the man at all and that until the SS came to him, he had not had a single thought that the man he spoke to could have been Oswald. Thus, he had not spread the story around. Why should he? Yet, a few days after the assassination he says the SS came to him and asked him point blank if he were the man who spoke to Oswald on the steps!? It is very confusing. I can understand that Kelley having related Oswald's allegation to his Dallas representative (Sorrels) would have wanted very much to find the alleged "SSman who asked for a telephone." Then, if this is the case, what led Sorrels and Kelley to Allman? Allman says he has no idea. I surely haven't. I would like to read the Archives notation. Let me hear from you when you have time, Much love, S.