

4 Dec. 1979

Dear Sylvia:

Your letter of Nov. 27th arrived today. Many thanks.

It was good to hear you'll be spared the task of doing up the exhibits. Funny enough, I'd missed their inclusion as well in the Report. This is because I didn't receive my copy of the Report from the GPO until late August. In the meantime, I'd picked up the Bantam edition and that was the version I became familiar with and it doesn't contain the list of exhibits. Since then, I've used the "official" report only to check out various matters for the index. Anyway, I'm glad we're (or you're) spared extra work.

I've been putting together the master index of subjects during most of my spare moments and I'm finding that it's going much faster than I'd anticipated (knock on wood). I'm now into the "M's". Things will slow down, of course, with the O's (LHO, Organized Crime), R's (Ruby), and W's (Warren Commn., Wounds, etc.) but I see no reason why all the compilation shouldn't be done by about the 15th of this month. Classes end for me tomorrow so I can now get at it full time. I like the looks of things thusfar, though it's required a lot of slow checking and double checking. In many places, for example, one of us will have broken subjects down nicely into sub-groups while other entries for the same item will simply list pages with no breakdown. In other cases, I've decided to do a breakdown on items which neither of us originally did sub-groups on. Altogether, I think we'll have a solid, tight, and comprehensive index.

~~On dealing with the list of exhibits, I think the sensible thing would be to~~

note its location in the Explanatory Note. In addition, I'll list it in the Subject Index under "HSCA - Exhibits, Index of," with references to vol. and page nos. I'll also do the same for the index to the public hearings (pp. 573-4 of the Report). In addition, I'll change our titles for Blakey's narrations where necessary to conform with those titles that appear on p. 573.

The response of my student volunteers has been simply terrific. There were 27 who showed up a week ago today and, despite the crush of exams and term papers, 10 of them have completed their stacks of names. They'll all be in on Monday. Then I go through them to double check, make cross-references, and add material to them that I've picked up on the subject side. By the way, a couple of my volunteers gave me ~~me~~ a Christmas present ~~when they turned in their slips~~ of a jogging T-shirt which reads on the front: "I Know Who Really Killed J.F.K." I doubt I'll be wearing it outside the house. But it was a nice gesture on their part. By the way, I've also drawn on the services of another researcher here in Canada, Dave Hawkins of Montreal. Dave's extremely knowledgeable on the photo evidence and I asked him to identify the name of the photographer on a couple of photos I wasn't absolutely sure about (e.g., Turner and Cancellare) and which the committee provided no references to.

If all goes at this rate, I should be starting to type it all up no later than Christmas. Having next term off will allow me to work on it full time and, in short, we should be able to beat the deadline. When I start to type, I'll xerox off the first few pages so you can have an idea of what it will look like.

In going over the subjects, I've picked up a few more errata. I'll send you a list when I'm finished.

Many thanks for your offer of help. As far as putting the master headings and citations together, I can't think of much that can be done from your end. Last night, however, I found there were a couple of items we neglected in vols. I and II. Would it be possible for you to go through them and pick them up? It might save me a couple of hours. In vol. I, there are no subject references to JFK (excluding wounds, clothing, & bullet fragments, I believe). There shouldn't be too many and most of them will be in Connally's testimony. In vol. II, there are no references to "Impulse Patterns" in Barger's testimony. Since the latter is a substantial sub-head with references from other vols., it would be important to pick them up in vol. II.

Mentioning JFK reminds me, I think it might be a good idea to add him, along with Ruby and LHO, to the subject side. With all three, my intention is to list sub-headings only, (e.g., Ruby & Organized Crime; JFK & Anti-Castro Cubans, etc.) omitting references to those citations where they're merely mentioned in no particular context. Along these lines, therefore, the references to JFK in vol. I should deal only with the more important matters, or sub-heads we've made for him in other volumes. Mere places of mention can be forgotten.

That's about all I can think of for the moment. Received Penn's November issue today but there was no mention of your note to him about the index. Either it got to him too late or he decided not to run it.

Like you, I found it somewhat strange and disturbing to have a Nov. 22 pass without some reference to it in the media. It's certainly not for lack of public interest. The evening of the 22nd a physicist and I did a presentation for a group of scientists here on the assassination that focused mainly on the acoustics and photographic evidence. The turnout was large and the response was enthusiastic.

Will keep you posted.

Best regards,

*Harry*