

82 South Regent Street
Port Chester, N.Y.
June 18, 1968

Dear Sylvia:

Thank you very much for your warm note on my review of Accessories in the New York Free Press. Needless to say, the pleasure was mine in dealing with such a high calibre book on a subject that is now, in the light of Los Angeles, more important than ever. Perhaps 1968 will not be the last year for Warren Report critics as I have written.

In the past few weeks I have been canvassing my local area here in Westchester on their attitude to the Warren Report. I have found one person in 20 who believe it. This in what is thought of as a conservative Italian working-class district is most remarkable. Support for the Commission, oddly enough, has been voiced most to me by upper-middle-class people who this year have been hot for McCarthy.

Incidentally, Mark Lane will be writing for the Free Press on a regular basis. I will forward the articles you may have missed already. Mark's writings are very unclear, and reading them I can understand why he has made the enemies he has. For example, in the current Free Press (which will be forthcoming) he speaks of RFK secretly meeting with Garrison to re-open the JFK assassination inquiry shortly before the late Senator's own murder. Lane also quotes news reports quoting Sandor Vanocur of NBC as saying that on the sad plane trip from LA to New York, the plane bearing the body of Senator Kennedy, Edward Kennedy voiced doubts about the Warren Commission and about the "faceless men" behind these senseless acts. A call by me to Vanocur (who was incredibly easy to reach at NBC in New York) brought forth the information that Vanocur never heard anything of the kind quoted by the daily press and repeated by Lane in our paper. Vanocur notes that press reports were very garbled and cites the extreme tiredness of all of the people involved. Vanocur also said that he knew nothing about any discussions between RFK and Garrison about any reopening of the 1964 Report or on any other topic. Of course, though Vanocur was a close Kennedy friend, his testimony on this last point isn't crucial. I just wanted to make you aware of what this newsman told me so that you can deal with any of these questions with as much information as possible. I was a Westchester chairman of a Citizens for Kennedy Committee until June 6. So Vanocur felt relaxed enough talking to me. I do think that he would be friendly to any inquirer, although it should be noted that he is understandably sick of the situation any supporter and friend of the Kennedy's is going through right now.

When I asked Gabe Pressman's secretary about whether Lane's articles might be newsworthy, I was told that NBC has had enough of Lane and given short shrift on all sides. WOR radio and TV has also put Lane on their blacklist again.

Two quick points of business. The Free Press is in danger of going under unless 14,000 or so dollars can be raised by the end of Summer. Our editor works 80 hours a week (30 as a bartender in the Village) to keep alive. The Grove Press has long pulled their support away. I haven't been paid since January, and although I know one must save up for these jobs, the situation is getting ridiculous. I would hope that anyone interested in the kind of things we do would contribute to the cause, either by writing articles or financially. A one-year subscription (52 issues) is only \$4.50 and it is \$7 for two years. I think many of the people who want to keep the Warren Report debate alive would do well to subscribe.

I am not in the business end of these things at all, but, you know, there are friends of mine who need the Free Press more than I, and I hate to see them hurt.

Another matter. Do you know the book Bulletin From Dallas: The President is Dead ? It was written by John B. Mayo Jr. and is a report on television coverage of JFK's assassination. It also contains several erroneous comments on the murder. One thing that Mayo reports and that I didn't recall reading elsewhere is of the existence of a film of Oswald's arrest in the theater. Mayo says that Bert Shipp, news director of WFAA-TV in Dallas, heard police messages from the Texas Theater, and sent a Ron Reiland to the Theater. Reiland, according to Shipp, left the daylight filter on when inside the theater and took it off outside--the reverse of proper procedure. The film shows a man whose face was not identifiable but was said to be Oswald, pulling a gun on a policeman, pulling the trigger, but having the weapon misfire. The underexposed segment was used on WFAA, according to Shipp, only because Oswald was unrecognizable, so as not to prejudice the case. I just wonder if you knew anything about this film and its validity. If you would like the book I will send you my copy.

This was far more long-winded than I had intended. But, thank you again for being so patient with me in the past, yes, but most of all for Accessories After the Fact which will outlive us all if a free society is available anywhere in the World, and the burdens as well as the privileges of freedom are found acceptable to at least one man at any time.

Best of Luck to you


Joseph W. Masi