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Dear Sylvia:

Upon reading the enclosed story from the Washington Post and thinking of you, I called Isabel to compare notes. She also had picked it up, but from a neighbor's newspaper, so we agreed that I should send you my copy. Even in my relative ignorance of circumstances surrounding the Kennedy assassination, I see implications here that are mind-boggling; you may have information that puts this disturbing story into some perspective.

I must now admit to some forced "reconsideration" of so-called conspiratorial interpretations of current events in light of revelations to date about the Watergate affair. It is my interpretation, not clearly expressed in any news stories I have seen, that a lot of what has (apparently) transpired is attributable to right-wing ideologues who are able to justify all sorts of illegal and immoral activities on the grounds of higher "national security" considerations, i.e., saving the country from dangerous "leftists" such as Muskie and, heaven forbid, McGovern.

What is so disturbing to me is that the scope of such dubious activities already established, or strongly suggested, by Watergate testimony goes a long way toward closing the credibility gap against believing in--or seriously considering--a right-wing plot to assassinate the President. It no longer seems so far-fetched at all, so that in reading this story I can't help but think that it may be so. However, I don't have the knowledge of details to sketch in strong evidential links and so I am uncertain of this interpretation.

The possible roles of the CIA (not clearly right-wing) and FBI (clearly right-wing under Hoover, who is now being cast as a villain by Nixon for resisting proposed domestic spying) are very muddled, and in any case only the FBI can be considered as monolithic in character during the period in question. It seems doubtful to me that men of the ilk of McCord, Hunt, and Barker (not to mention Mitchell, Dean, Haldeman and Ehrlichman) could have been in positions of power and influence under Kennedy or Johnson. However, I am increasingly wondering about possible links between major corporations and acting-out right-wing adventurers who would make natural allies.

God, does Eisenhower look good in retrospect!

Sincerely,

Richard