

July 4, 1966

Dear Sylvia Meagher:

I am enclosing a review of Ed Epstein's book from the Sunday Calendar section of yesterday's Los Angeles Times. You may receive one from another source, but this perhaps can be used for Xerox purposes as was the Donovan article which you requested.

Naturally, you are interested in my opinion of "Inquest" which I promised would be forthcoming in one of our telephonic get-togethers. I read the book on June 6th which was the first day it was available here and since that time I've acquired six other copies which have been distributed to a diverse cross section of individuals: some wholly knowledgeable about the case, some dimly aware, one devoted to the Establishment point of view. This way, I thought, I might test my own reactions against a variety of other views. So until all of them are collated I think I'll reserve my remarks. My view has already been formed from the notes I took as I read.

What I especially want to say is how much I enjoyed your "overview"(sic) of the Martogs book in your Minority of One article which was superbly written, buoyant, perceptive, scathing, and not without a touch of humor! I've written Arnoni asking for more of your reportage. Congratulations! (By the way, when is your manuscript going to see the light of day, or at least pass our way out here in Los Angeles among the 'new historians'?) Better still, as Maggie and I both hope, when are we going to see you out here in California? Each of us has a guest room literally waiting for your occupancy!

Bram Cavin at World Publishing last week seemed a bit submerged with all the flap around the periphery of Ed's book. He told me he needed support from those who were acquainted with the Sauvage book in French and the articles in Commentary and New Leader. That is, he wanted statements and encomiums about Sauvage's work and the importance of the book itself, why it should be published etc. Maggie and I speculated that he was fighting an uphill battle with respect to an advertising budget. I had received from World the little announcement about the book (I think the cover smashing!) and wanted from him the recently advanced date of publication, the estimated first printing and some other information.

I took the plunge and talked with Harold Weisberg. It turned out to be a monologue for the most part. My express purpose in calling was to secure information about the tapes that he has made, one in New York and one with Joe Dolan by long distance telephone to San Francisco and then, too, I wanted to ask him about a few specific points in his text which he is now indexing; adding some more documents and exhibits too, I understand. So he's had a kind of success which has mitigated, though not wholly, the note of self-pity or maybe self-involvement is the better word, so noticeable when you spoke with him. That was my impression anyway.

He asked me to put some questions to Lillian Castellano about certain of the Zapruder motion picture frames, which I did, and which she said are answered by a document of Thomas Stam which is in your possession. I think if this is the case it is really not, then, up to me to so inform Weisberg inasmuch as he says you haven't been able to provide him with an answer to these same questions. It's a rather awkward situation all around. So I've urged Mrs. Castellano to communicate directly with Weisberg*. He wants to know the citation in the hearings for some remarks about the motion of the President's body in response to the impact of the bullets. I suggested that maybe he was thinking of Zapruder's testimony, but that is not the instance he is seeking. For he says the remarks were not primarily connected with any testimony on the Zapruder film itself.

Weisberg offered to supply me with some items from the Archives which might be of interest and I think that was quite nice of him. He is to visit there on Wednesday, which visit will be devoted to other things, quite apart from things he'll obtain for me on a later visit.

There was also the news that prints from the Nix and Muchmore films are available for a price from UPI in New York. Lillian Castellano seemed quite aware of that although she has not seen them. I shall certainly write for them if that is possible.

My back is much better and I've been out of my brace for several hours a day. Tomorrow I start my first filming since March on a television show with Howard Duff for screening on a new series next fall. So we'll see how I stand up to that! I'm also taking Maggie out to lunch later on in the week. Both she and I share your revulsion over American escalation of the war by bombing Hanoi and Haiphong. I don't think it's too far of the mark to characterize it as a criminal act.

Looking forward to talking with you soon.....

Best wishes,

Bill

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*instead of using me as a go-between