for Southern California

Thursday afternoon 1/2/47

North Hollywood, California

Mail address:

Los Angeles, California 90038 877-5583 and 984-2420

Dear Sylvia:



Thanks so much for the cheque and the enclosures which arrived yesterday. It was sweet and thoughtful and I do appreciate it, although I'm not at all sure it's "right", but rather than dispute my lack of "willingness to receive" as per the Biblical injunction, I'll accept it gratefully. I've noted the corrected page proof and have inserted the 'missing page' in its proper sequence in Jolly Green's letter to Mr. Arnoni.

I had a most informative and helpful phone interview on Halloween with Dr. Wecht. He spoke with enthusiasm of you and Tink and was quite willing to be interviewed for my programme. He will be out here for a conference at Disneyland Hotel soon and told me he was in Los Angeles at the time of the assassination. I want to thank you for giving me his address.

Ray, Maggie and Steve Jaffe are in tripartite negotiations, apparently, to get that specialite de la maison, the # 5 man (sic) done up in grand style in an early issue of good old Ramparts magazine. My own photo analyst, who knows next to nothing about the case, had the sagacity to say: "It looks like it could be a man alright, but they'll sure shoot you guys down if they can establish he had nothing to do with the shooting." This possibility has always been not far removed from my own private fears; i.e. the erection of straw men for outfits like ITEK to knock down.

Harold phoneds shortly after we spoke on Sunday to tell he had new sensations, too sensational to reveal! Except to me and to Maggie. He didn#t trust some of his contacts of late and specified that Lifton wasn't to have an advance, gratuitous (?) copy of "Oswald In New Orleans". I neglected to ask why, although I am curious to know whether he new of that latest Mark Lane ploy you related as having heard from Bethell. Lifton phoned to tell me of having heard from Bethell who wanted to ascertain whether Dave had indeed used Lane as a courier of information destined for Big Jim. I gather Bethell was trying to pin the affair down. also said he thought Big Jim was slightly mad, in the clinical sense, on the basis of two phone conversations and a four hour and a two hour set of meetings held with Himself the other week. Apparently, to hear Lifton relate it, Garrison was about to go off half-cocked and make an arrest of some perfectly innocent person until he, Lifton, drew Garrison back from such an imprudent move.

Do I require special permission of Bobbs-Merrill or you to quote a paragraph or two from "AATF" ?

Best wishes, home, Bell

The books you sent have arrived. Capsul comments to be related when time per G. S.

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