

11/25/71

Dear Sylvia,

Happy Thanksgiving. My apologies for not writing for such a long time. I've been quite busy at school, and have been putting the assassination out of my mind. There have been a couple more letters from Belin--the end of our correspondence and then, of course, there was that horror in the Times--something which really upset me.

Prior to the Times thing, I had been planning to write you a letter concerning the various concessions we'd gotten from Belin. You see, in addition to admitting to you that the Commission was not "wholly infallible," he made a couple admissions to me. He was good enough to admit that there was a "minor overstatement" when the Report said no one saw Oswald between 11:50 and 12:30. But he also told me that he does not support every action by the Commission and every statement in the Report. I don't have his letter with me now, but I believe he mentioned that he did not agree with the decision not to see the pix and X-rays (which was not the decision but let that slide ~~there~~.) I was beginning to think that Belin had come around ever so slightly, that perhaps he was searching around for an out, or, in the least, that he had been reduced to silence.

Well, what a shock that Times piece was! I suffered the most exasperating sense of frustration, as if all that writing didn't do a damned thing except possibly make him more hysterical, more in need of asserting his piety, etc. I haven't even been able to bring myself to write a letter to the Times about it, though I will, perhaps even today.

Thank you for the account of Ned Crosby's talk with Belin. It had interesting points, but merely enhanced what has been growing in me--a severe disappointment over ~~XX~~ Ned. I've had some dealings recently with him concerning Harold, and quite frankly I am less than impressed with him. At first I expected to be at odds with Harold, but it turned out that my faith in Harold was reaffirmed. (Which is not to say I am in complete agreement with everything Harold is doing right now.) However, I think I wish nothing further to do with Ned. There is no need to drag you into this matter--indeed Ned very unfairly dragged me in--but I thought I should mention my disappointment. I don't think Ned is very competent in this field, and I fear he can do us harm.

Jerry tells me you have not been feeling too well lately. I hope things have improved since I last spoke to him.

Take care--and best wishes,

*Howard*